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UPF TODAY

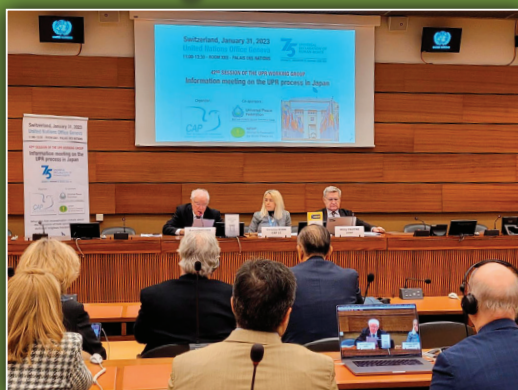
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE



UPF Leadership Transition



Geneva Discusses Japan and Religious Freedom



ILC Cambodia



FROM THE PUBLISHER

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the most recent issue of *UPF Today*, which offers an overview of our programs carried out over the course of the past year of 2023. I myself marvel at the accomplishments of our great UPF team that works across the world, in more than 150 nations, reaching a wide spectrum of leaders and ordinary citizens who aspire to build a world of peace. Our mission is so very important, especially at this critical time in human history. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

This issue highlights especially the remarkable Peace Summit 2023, which included a wide range of programs and plenary sessions, including the Elders Roundtable, the 6th Think Tank 2022, the international assembly of the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace, and the Assembly of the International Summit Council for Peace, featuring the message for UPF's Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

This issue also reports on the transition of Dr. Thomas Walsh from the Chairmanship of UPF International. His tenure with UPF, from the very outset, has been extraordinary and we are ever grateful for his many years of service. Dr. Walsh will continue as Senior Advisor of UPF International. It is my high honor to have been appointed by our Founder and the Board of Directors as the Chairman and CEO of UPF International. I look forward to working with all of you and doing my very best to expand and develop the foundation of UPF across the globe.

Thank you for your support. Let us work together to build a world of lasting peace. ❖



Dr. Charles S. Yang
Chairman, UPF



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UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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

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COVER:

Peace Summit 2023,
Opening Ceremony;
(bottom photos l. to r.)
Dr. Charles S. Yang becomes
UPF Chairman; Talk on
Religious Freedom; Cambodia
International Leadership
Conference Audience members



PEACE SUMMIT 2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seoul, Korea | May 2-6, 2023

Pease Summit 2023 gathered global leaders in Seoul, Korea, from May 2 to 6 to discuss the many crises facing the global village and a pathway to peace.

The conference theme, “Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace,” called on the more than 700 participants from 68 nations which may include day guests from overseas to consider innovative approaches to leadership and action based on the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values.

Welcome Dinner

The welcome dinner took place in the Lotte World Hotel, Seoul on May 2, 2023. Emcee **Mrs. Blessie G. Dhakal**, the International Coordinator of IAFLP, gracefully welcomed the participants. Many of them had just arrived from long journeys. They were happy to greet old friends, take pictures, and sit down to a superb dinner.

Archbishop Johannes Ndanga, Special Advisor, IAPD Africa, Zimbabwe, then offered the invocation, beautifully describing our relationship with the created world. **Prof. Dr. Sanjay Pratap Singh**, Vice Chancellor, The Assam Royal Global University, India, shared some words of greetings.

He emphasized that it was the good legacy of UPF Co-Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon that caused so many good people from around the world to gather as one family in that very room.

H.E. Anote Tong, President (2003-2016), Kiribati; Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate (2015),

followed by talking about the ecological crisis that caused flood water to reach the door of his own home on Kiribati. Soprano **Kim Jeong-jin** performed three lovely songs including, “Oh sole mio,” and “Over the rainbow,” before **Dr. Thomas Walsh**, UPF International Chairman, gave an overview of the program and highlighted some of the special features of Peace Summit 2023.



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon







The Founder's Address delivered by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

Hon. Mike Pompeo, the former U.S. secretary of state, said, "I had the privilege to serve for 1,000 days as America's most senior diplomat. I saw that organizations like UPF, the work of Mother Moon matters. We should not lose hope. We should not stop the climb. We will reach the summit and God will be with us."

H.E. Yves Leterme, the former prime minister of Belgium, said, "Countries that are interconnected, with economic openness and interfaith openness, don't go to war."

In the Founder's Address, **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** said: "All of you gathered here today are righteous people whom Heaven has blessed. I pray that we will all join hands together in the historic and providential ranks of those who are blessed and realize the dream of one family of humankind under the Heavenly Parent of Peace."

Marking the inauguration of the Elders' Roundtable, Dr. Moon bestowed appointment certificates upon 12 distinguished members of the council. The eminent individuals are connected by continent as the highest-ranking members of the Elders' Council.

The opening plenary joyfully concluded with a presentation of plaques of appreciation, festive songs and a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dr. Moon.



Hon. Mike Pompeo

The Inauguration of the Elders' Roundtable





The Inaugural Elders' Roundtable Session

Inaugural Elders' Roundtable

In celebration of those appointed as the highest ranking members of the world Elders' Council, Dr. Moon hosted the inaugural meeting of the Elders' Roundtable.

Congratulatory remarks were given by **Mr. Kim Ho-il**, the chairman of the Korean Elders Council, and **H.E. Alfred Moisiu**, the former president of Albania, followed by impressions from **H.E. Maithripala Sirisena**, the former president of Sri Lanka, **Hon. Newt Gingrich**, former U.S. Speaker of the House, **H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni**, former president of Benin, **Hon. Sang-hoon Lee**, former Korean minister of national defense and chair of the National Elders' Roundtable, and **H.E. Anote Tong**, former president of Kiribati and Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate. Dr. Moon expressed her hope that the elders making up this roundtable would share their wisdom of life and practice true love for the sake of our entire humanity.

Concurrent Sessions by Region

Eight sessions comprised the Summit. One set featured perspectives from the major regions of the world: one with a focus on **Africa**, another on the **Asia-Pacific** region, then **Europe and the Middle East**, **North America**, and **Latin America**. Moderated by the UPF chairs and regional secretaries general of each region, expert panelists offered their recommendations for a way forward beyond conflict and division and toward harmony and cooperation.

Kosovo's Prime Minister **H.E. Albin Kurti** said: "We believe that development and growth without human rights, without political pluralism, without democracy, without rule of law, is not sustainable, is not fair and it's harmful for human dignity. We must have human dignity, freedom and rights and liberties for the people, but also overall economic growth which becomes well-being for the citizens."

Concurrent Sessions by UPF Associations

Another series of sessions featured insights and recommendations from the various sectors of our society, including the political, the religious, academia, the media, and business. These sessions were organized by the international coordinators of each of UPF's associations, including **ISCP, IAPP, IAPD, IMAP, IAED, and IAAP**. This approach to peace is collaborative and multi-sectoral. All sectors of society are needed to build a world of peace.

UPF's International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP), supported by the HJ Academic Foundation, hosted an international academic symposium on the theme, "Peace Ideology and Vision for a Peace Movement on Each Continent." Scholars from around the world presented on the peace movement, peace ideology, the role of religion in each continent, and the role of the UN and the Universal Peace Federation.





Dr. Michael Pillsbury

6th Think Tank 2022 Forum

Under the theme “Toward Peace in the Indo-Pacific,” **Dr. Michael Pillsbury**, senior fellow for China Strategy at the Hudson Institute, a conservative American think tank based in Washington, D.C., served as the main speaker for the 6th Think Tank Forum, which was co-hosted with The Washington Times and Segye Ilbo.

Dr. Pillsbury gave a penetrating analysis of the region’s situation and proposed an interesting scenario for discussion: “If Xi Jinping used force or coercion against Taiwan, it could affect the decision-making of North Korea. The Chinese could even encourage North Korea to create a second front for the Americans, so there’d be two wars going at the same time.”

Among the other speakers: **Dr. Kim Geun-Sik**, who chairs the Unification Committee of South Korea’s ruling People Power Party; **Dr. Chheng Kimlong** of Cambodia’s Asian Vision Institute; Korean parliamentarian **Hon. Lee Jung Mun**; and former U.S. Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo**, who said Henry Kissinger-era China policies “may have made sense in 1972 or even 1982,” but are no longer appropriate because of recent Chinese actions such as its aggressive stance toward Taiwan.

IAYSP Conference

The International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) gathered young leaders from around the world for in-depth discussion following keynote addresses by Sunhak Peace Prize laureates **H.E. Anote Tong**, the former president of Kiribati, and **Dr. Sakena Yacoobi**, the executive director of the Afghan Institute of Learning. The laureates presented on “The Climate Crisis and the Role of Future Generations” and “The Reality of Afghan Refugees and the Role of Youth.” The commentator was **Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye**, a senior consultant to CEN-SAD’s regional youth programs.

Closing

UPF Chair Dr. Walsh reiterated the impact of UPF and its track record and reputation as a serious discussion platform for global intellectuals to brainstorm, exploring the direction humanity should take and put into practice. Speakers underscored the important recognition that a collaborative and multisectoral approach to peace is needed, especially through cooperation between nations. The program concluded with mutual expressions of gratitude for the hospitality provided by UPF and everyone’s contribution to making Peace Summit 2023 a meaningful step toward a world of peace. ❖

Written by UPF International

*To view this report online,
please visit archive.UPF.org/10699 or
UPF.org/post/peace-summit-2023-executive-summary*



Latin America



North America

UPF LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Tarrytown, New York | May 26, 2023

The UPF worldwide community celebrated a new chapter in its history with the installation of **Dr. Chang Shik Yang** as the new international chairman.

UPF also bid farewell to **Dr. Thomas G. Walsh**, who stepped down after 17 years as UPF international chairman to focus his energies as the president of the Unification Theological Seminary. He will continue as Senior Advisor to UPF International.

The online ceremony was held on May 26, 2023, at the International Secretariat in Tarrytown, New York, and was live-streamed around the world.

UPF International President Dr. Michael Jenkins served as the MC for the event. The opening prayer was offered by Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the regional co-chair for UPF in Europe and the Middle East. Mrs. Won-ju McDevitt, recently appointed as director of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's Second Secretariat, delivered the Founder's Remarks.

Dr. Moon said, "We are here to congratulate Dr. Thomas Walsh for his dedication and work since the founding of UPF and to welcome Dr. Chang Shik Yang as the new UPF international chairman." The Founders have advocated the need to promote an interreligious culture and to work for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

Expressing her deepest gratitude to Dr. Walsh for his "devotion and hard work in absolute unity with the True Parents from the founding of the UPF until today," Dr. Moon also thanked Dr. Yang and wished him "heavenly fortune to bring about great victory."

Congratulatory remarks were given by Dr. Yongcheon Song, the newly appointed international president of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). Dr. Song said that UPF has "played a leading

role in preparing the social environment and foundation for establishing Heavenly Parent's ideal of creation—namely 'one family under God'—and fulfilling the hope of all the world's people." He described Dr. Walsh as "a man of true character who practices living for the sake of others." He also congratulated Dr. Yang as someone who will "faithfully nurture the seed of love and peace that UPF has planted."

Special Remarks

Professor Yeon Ah Moon, newly appointed as director of Dr. Moon's First Secretariat and the chair of the Sun Moon Educational Foundation, thanked Dr. Walsh for "working selflessly and tirelessly for decades at the helm of the UPF."

Dr. Robert Kittel, the regional co-chair for UPF in Asia Pacific, expressed appreciation for Dr. Walsh's "extraordinary leadership of attendance to our Heavenly Parent and our beloved founder and for your steady leadership at the helm of our UPF family despite often stormy seas." Dr. Kittel recited lyrics from "Danny Boy," one of Dr. Moon's favorite songs, which Dr. Walsh often has sung at celebrations.

Dr. Katherine Rigney, the regional co-chair for UPF in Africa, offered heartfelt words: "It is with mixed emotions of gratitude and also nostalgia that we express our deep appreciation for Dr. Walsh's invaluable contributions, his impressive journey and his invaluable legacy in the management, coordination and leadership of UPF." Dr. Rigney emphasized that the growth and success of UPF in Africa were greatly due to Dr. Walsh's support and strategic guidance.

After the presentation to Dr. Walsh of a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Sun-Ae Patterson, UPF's graphic designer and web manager, Dr. Walsh offered his farewell address and many appreciations.

He recounted the recent successful events in Korea—Peace Summit 2023, the celebration of Dr. Moon's 80th birthday, the dedication of the Cheon Won Gung temple, and the Holy Blessing ceremony—"despite so many challenges swirling around and the difficulties that still seek to put roadblocks in the providential path."

He expressed his respect and love for Dr. Moon, as well as for the UPF leaders and staff. Dr. Walsh recalled the many experiences with the founders and especially the blessing to accompany them on world tours. "True Mother always made sure I was well taken care of and invited me often to have meals with them. I felt like family."

Dr. Walsh conveyed best wishes to Dr. Yang as the newly installed international chair. "He's really a special man. He's been at the peak of our movement. He's also been in the valleys. Now he's taking this central position at a central time."

Quoting the founder's statement that a "New Era" is opening up for UPF and Family Federation,



Dr. Thomas G. Walsh and Dr. Charles S. Yang



UPF International welcomes new Chairman

he said, “We are about to launch a growth initiative that has been regrettably lacking, but we are about to take off and we are now on track to fulfill Vision 2027.”

Dr. Walsh closed with warm words of gratitude for the UPF regional leaders, secretaries general, and staff. He especially thanked his dear wife, Professor Lynn Walsh, the director of the UPF Office of Marriage and Family, who “sees not only my performative side but the other sides of me as well. This she does beautifully and gracefully.”

Plaques of appreciation were presented on behalf of UPF’s co-founder, and leaders and staff around the world by Dr. Jenkins, UPF International Vice President Dr. Tageldin Hamad and UPF Vice President for Regional Relations John Paul Hong.

Next came the ceremony to welcome UPF’s new International Chairman.

Dr. Yang was introduced by Thomas McDevitt, who serves as the coordinator for UPF’s International Media Association for Peace (IMAP), and the International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED) as well as the chairman of The Washington Times.

Mr. McDevitt highlighted Dr. Yang’s impressive credentials. After earning a master of divinity degree from the Methodist Theological Seminary in South Korea and a master’s in religious studies from Unification Theological Seminary, Dr. Yang earned a doctorate in ministry from the New York Theological Seminary.

Before inviting Dr. Yang to give his inaugural address, Mr. McDevitt also passed on precious words of praise for Dr. Walsh from Dr. Moon. When announcing the new leadership assignments on May 9, she described Dr. Walsh as a “true American gentleman,” as she also reminisced about his qualifications and many experiences leading the UPF organization.

Accepting his appointment as chairman of UPF International and

UPF-Korea by Dr. Moon, Dr. Yang stepped down from his position as Regional Chairman of UPF Central America and the Caribbean. In his inaugural address, he thanked Dr. Walsh for his key role leading UPF since its establishment in 2005 and for creating a global foundation in almost all of the UN member states. He offered words of gratitude to Dr. Moon and all the leaders.

In working towards Vision 2027, the “providential organizations will transition from charismatic leadership into a teamwork system,” Dr. Yang said. “UPF and FFWPU will be the two wheels of our providential vehicles.” There will be a greater focus on developing UPF’s six associations and on organizing events at the local level rather than large-scale international events, he said.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad offered the closing benediction, and Mr. John Paul Hong led three victory cheers of *mansei*. ❖

Written by UPF International

This report is available online at archive.UPF.org/article/10723 or UPF.org/post/a-new-era-upf-leadership-transition





EXPERTS IN GENEVA DECRY JAPAN'S VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Geneva, Switzerland | January 31, 2023



Chantal Komagata (UPF) and Christine Mirre (CAP LC) welcome participants.

UPF co-sponsored a side event at the United Nations Offices about the lack of religious freedom in Japan. To watch the recorded video of the event, please see: <https://vimeo.com/794533226>.

The human rights defense organization CAP LC (Coordination des Associations et Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience), in co-sponsorship with UPF and its affiliated organization Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), held the side event on the occasion of the Universal Periodical Review of Japan at the Human Rights Council.

The Human Rights Council has been based at the UN Offices in Geneva since its founding in 2006. As the Council is directly under the UN General Assembly, the weight of its findings has become very significant. Unlike the previous Human Rights Commission, it has been strongly upgraded to focus on the implementation of human rights in each country.

It is a matter of prestige for every country not to be seen as having serious human rights issues. One of the Human Rights Council's mechanisms is to scrutinize every member state of the UN every five years, through the process of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). All nations in the Human Rights Council bring forth criticism of human rights records to the country under review, and issue (unbinding) recommendations to remedy those flaws.

On January 31, 2023, the Japanese delegation was receiving criticisms and recommendations from many nations on Japan's observance of human rights. Some were referring to the absence of an independent human rights institution in Japan, others to the problem of hate speech to which the government turns a blind eye, etc. There was, of course,



The first speech was recorded on video by **Hon. Dr. Ján Figel'**, the first EU special envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion outside the EU. He mentioned that numerous members of the Unification Church have become subjects of discrimination and hate speech following the assassination of Shinzo Abe. He described the process that led to two legal initiatives by the Japanese government aimed at depriving the Unification Church/Family Federation of its status as a religious corporation, and at amending the existing consumer protection laws to protect those who donate excessively to religious organizations. He pointed out that freedom of religion or belief is under serious attack around the world, and that 79 percent of the world's population encounter obstacles in their most essential right to religious freedom.

The second speaker was **Dr. Aaron Rhodes**, president of the Forum for Religious Freedom (FOREF Europe). Twelve years ago, Dr. Rhodes was involved in the Toru Goto legal case against the kidnapping and deprogramming of Unification Church members in Japan. He explained that the abduction crimes committed in the past against the Unification Church in Japan had not been taken seriously by the Japanese authorities, and that they were followed today by "new massive assaults" on Unificationist members after the assassination of Shinzo Abe. He appealed to Japanese leaders to take positive steps against intolerance toward minorities. He mentioned an "ugly wave of prejudice and discriminatory actions," as well as biased legislation aiming at dissolving the church, accompanied by death threats and physical attacks on its members. He deplored the fact that other nations and large human rights groups had been silent on such violations of human rights by Japan. He implored the Japanese leaders to have the courage to address religious intolerance.



an overall respect for the great donor nation of Japan, and flaws were noted but didn't cause any strong consternation. However, when a nation is criticized repeatedly for the same specific reasons, it eventually has to respond to the criticism. This was the reason for organizing a side event when Japan was under review.

While the Universal Periodic Review of Japan was taking place in the main hall of the Human Rights Council, the side event was being held in the same building in a separate hall. About 20 people were present, including a representative of the diplomatic mission of Japan to the UN Geneva, while 120 people attended online, including representatives from 15 UN missions of member states.

The event was titled "What the Abe Assassination Reveals about Tolerance of Hate Speech and the Deficit of Religious Freedom in Japan." CAP LC Director Christine Mirre chaired the session.

This was the third meeting on human rights held by UPF and CAP LC at the UN in Geneva since the assassination of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on July 8, 2022. Four prominent experts on human rights in Europe were invited to speak.

Panel Session





Dr. Massimo Introvigne addresses the Conference

The third speaker, on video, was **Dr. Massimo Introvigne**, founder and managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR). Some excerpts were selected from speeches he gave at two UPF-organized Conferences of Hope in Korea, in August and November 2022. He described what happened after the assassination of Shinzo Abe, when the victims and the perpetrators were intentionally switched by greedy lawyers who already had been involved in the sequestrations of thousands of Unification Church members, and by communists who never forgave the Unification Church for being against their ideology. He pointed out their agenda to spread in Japan the secular humanist ideology that views religion as a simple tool to make money through brainwashing members.

The fourth speaker was **Mr. Willy Fautré**, CEO and director of Human Rights without Frontiers. He recalled how, over a period of 45 years, 4,300 converts of the Unification Church had been abducted for deconversion through confinement with the help of evangelical pastors – which was totally contrary to Article 18.2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) – signed by Japan – that guarantees the right to retain one’s religious

beliefs. All criminal complaints and civil cases filed at that time by some of the victims had been dismissed, except for Toru Goto’s lawsuit, which was accepted by the judiciary and ended successfully after a six-year battle. Although no media had covered that decision, the lawsuit had a deterring effect on the abductors and put an end to the lucrative business of deprogrammers.



Mr. Toru Goto addresses Conference.

Mr. Willy Fautré (right) addresses the Conference





Dr. Katsumi Otsuka (left) addresses the Conference.

Mr. Fautré also emphasized the consequences of hate speech, which is at the heart of the stigmatization of Unification Church members, particularly after Shinzo Abe's assassination. More than 400 violent incidents against churches and individuals of the Unification Church were recorded in just two months following the tragic crime. He pointed out that the Japanese government, although not instigating the hate speech, exacerbated it by undertaking "hate-filled actions," like seeking the removal of the church's Religious Corporation Status, forbidding its members to associate with members of the Liberal Democratic Party in the National Diet, and not reporting any of their good works.

In conclusion, **Dr. Katsumi Otsuka**, the UPF co-chair for Europe and the Middle East, spoke about a City Council member in Japan who had just published a book titled *Constitution and the Former Unification Church* and stood up for protecting human rights and religious freedom in Japan. He quoted from the book: "The voices of believers who are judged to be anti-social have been rejected. ... It is reported now that the root of all evil is the former Unification Church," to the point that all legislators of the

Liberal Democratic Party who had links with that church and its affiliates had to deny them. The author concluded that it was not the former Unification Church, but the way the Unification Church was criticized, that violated the Constitution.

The violations of human rights by Japan will continue to be exposed at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. UN delegations will be informed of the ongoing witch hunt led by the Japanese government against the Unification Church, instigated by the very group of lawyers who have supported deprogrammings and hate speech campaigns against Unification Church members over the past four decades. ❖

*Written by Heiner Handschin & Chantal Komagata,
UPF Europe and Middle East*

*This report can be found at
archive.UPF.org/article/10595 or
UPF.org/post/experts-in-geneva-decry-japan-s-violations-of-religious-freedom*



Left to right: Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, Dr. Aaron Rhodes, Christine Mirre and Willy Fautré.

UPF-EUME'S FIRST LADIES ASSOCIATION SPONSORS "NO PEACE WITHOUT WOMEN" CONFERENCE

Pristina, Kosovo | June 13, 2023

UPF and its International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) co-sponsored the second annual "No Peace Without Women" conference. The subtitle of the conference was "What Are Women Bringing to Peace Processes, Conflict Prevention and Human Security in the Balkans?"

The conference, which was held in Kosovo's Assembly (the nation's parliament), was a joint effort of the Europe-Middle East branch of Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI), an organization that is affiliated with UPF, and the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo, together with the Europe-Middle East branches of UPF and IAFLP.

Among the approximately 120 participants of the June 13, 2023, event there were three deputy ministers, twelve parliamentarians, nine ambassadors (including those from Austria, Japan, Norway and Sweden) and representatives of twenty media outlets.

The conference had begun on the previous evening with a welcoming banquet and reception at the Hotel Sirius. The date, June 12, was the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Pristina. Dignitaries present were Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister Emilija Redžepi, former President Fatmir Sejdiu and former first lady Nezafete Sejdiu, as well as key leaders, with various parliamentarians representing the hosts.

The organizing team comprised **Ejona Icka**, secretary general of UPF-Kosovo, who acted as the representative of WFWP in Kosovo and as the liaison with the Kosovar government. Her efforts were supported by **Gani Rroshi**, secretary general of UPF in both Albania and the Balkan Peninsula, who also took care of the Albanian delegation, who included former Albanian Deputy Prime Minister Senida Mesi.

WFWP International President **Moriko Hori** supported the event through her valuable presence and contributions. Furthermore, both of the UPF co-chairs for Europe and the Middle East, **Dr. Katsumi Otsuka** and **Jacques Marion**, greatly supported the efforts of the local team.

The foundation for the successful organization of the event in Kosovo was set at the UPF Peace Summit 2023, held in early May in Seoul, South Korea, when first ladies and wives

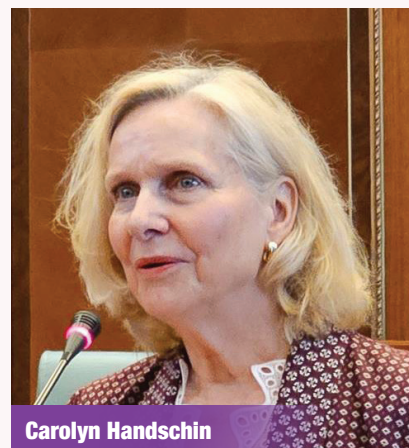
of the invited Balkan leaders participated in the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) session and discussions around the event planned for Kosovo in June. It was as he was leaving the hotel in Korea that Prime Minister Albin Kurti, with his wife, committed that he would personally host the "No Peace Without Women" conference in Kosovo.

The government of Kosovo graciously supported the conference by taking charge of the speakers' and panelists' conference expenses, including their food and lodging, as well as a special closing banquet hosted by Deputy Foreign Minister Liza Gashi, who was also a speaker at Peace Summit 2023 in Korea as part of the IAFLP delegation.

Opening Session

On the next day, the conference moved to the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. The moderator of the Opening Session, **Carolyn Handschin**, the director of the Office for UN Relations, WFWPI, paid special tribute to the government of Kosovo and especially Prime Minister Albin Kurti.

Ms. Handschin, who is also the president of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women at the United Nations in Geneva and one of the key organizers of the conference, explained in her opening remarks that the idea of "No Peace Without Women" began in Geneva in a discussion with WFWP leaders after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. After the devastation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo in the 1990s, she explained, it was clear that women must decide, "No more war" and then work in



Carolyn Handschin

The welcoming banquet is held at the Hotel Sirius in Pristina.





H.E. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

solidarity. This was exactly the mandate of the founders of UPF and WFPW in July 2012, to “work with women leaders and organizations to influence governance for the right priorities.”

Ms. Handschin then introduced the keynote speaker and the main host of the conference, **H.E. Albin Kurti**, prime minister of the Republic of Kosovo. He explained to the audience his background as a non-violent activist, a professor, and later the dean of the University of Pristina.

He thanked WFPW and the organizers for holding the conference at the time of the celebration of the liberation of Pristina. Kosovo has been a success story for peacebuilding in cooperation with the NATO alliance, he said. Peace can come only after the liberation of people who were deprived of their basic rights and freedom. It is after their liberation that women become instrumental in building up a more stable society.

He emphasized that, for his young government, gender balance is crucial. Kosovo is trying to work diligently in that direction, so that women are more substantially represented in political and other institutions. Women and mothers generally are empowered by the authorities in Kosovo. Before leaving the podium, the prime minister was presented with the Global Women’s Peace Ambassador’s Award by the WFWPI president.

The moderator then mentioned several messages that had been sent to the conference. **Mairead Corrigan Maguire**, a courageous and ever passionate Nobel laureate from Northern Ireland, sent her best regards for this event, very much in line with her own work. Also, the former permanent representative of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the United Nations, **H.E. Mirsada Čolaković**, wanted to participate but could not make it, due to the difficulty in obtaining a visa.

The second speaker of the opening panel, **H.E. Olga Algayerová**, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe based



H.E. Albin Kurti

in Geneva and former ambassador of Slovakia to the UN in Vienna, spoke to the audience through a video message. She emphasized the great potential of women’s leadership in peacebuilding and said this potential could be enhanced through the technological empowerment of women. Given the fact that the root causes of conflicts are often difficult to cope with, there is a need for a broader, more inclusive approach. She said that gender balance is a great attribute for sustainable development and peacebuilding.

As the last speaker of the opening session, **Moriko Hori**, president of WFPW International, explained her life experience growing up in Korea as a young girl from Japan, facing many experiences of hatred from Korean classmates and teachers. It was through these very tough experiences that she learned the value of reconciliation and forgiveness.

She closed with a quote from UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who said that women are crucial for promoting peace and security in the world. Given the great difficulties in the Balkans, Mrs. Mori said that women leaders in this region can make a difference in worldwide peace efforts, and she encouraged strong women leaders from the Balkans to use their potential to create peace around the world.



H.E. Olga Algayerová



Mrs. Moriko Hori

Session I:

1325 / UN Agenda on Women, Peace and Security: A Roadmap toward Peace and Reconciliation

As the first session followed directly after the opening panel, Ms. Handschin was again the moderator.

Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister **Emilija Redžepi**, who is of Bosnian ethnicity, often has promoted the rights of her nation's non-majority communities (which are only 7 percent of the 1.8 million people of Kosovo). Since the beginning of the new millennium, she said, we can witness women pursuing peace and succeeding more and more to bring conflicting parties to reconcile. In this context, the second "No Peace Without Women" conference is focusing on Kosovo and the situation in the Balkans.

The deputy prime minister emphasized the need to work for the equal rights of all citizens, because we all are humans first and members of ethnic groups second. The common goal of the Kosovar government is to remove human suffering, she said.

In Kosovo, much importance is given to women, and, therefore, women's representation is more than 30 percent in the Assembly, which is the largest female representation in the institutions in the Balkans. Women leaders and mothers emphasize the need to end bad experiences for all. She closed with the invitation to all women to bring in all their wisdom for a great and positive outcome and to learn from great women leaders' abilities and capacities, so that peace will prevail with a greater inclusion of women in decision-making.

The next speaker, **H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, the former president of Liberia, addressed the audience through a video message, expressing her deep desire to be present but being unable to do so, due to health issues.

The former president, a global champion in efforts to end violence against women, congratulated the organizers for this important conference. She reminded everyone that 33 years ago the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. She reiterated that there cannot be peace without women.

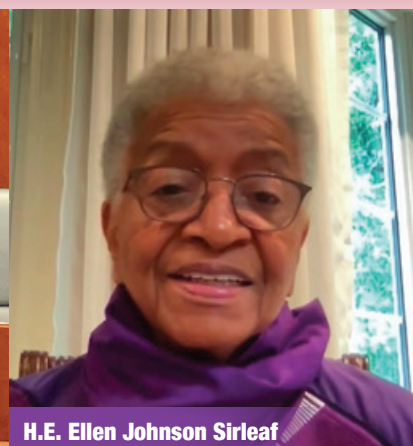
Many countries have come to recognize that solutions cannot be found by military means, she said. According to research, countries with insufficient numbers of women in leadership have great difficulties in realizing peace.

She is the first and, so far, the only African woman leader of a government. Each nation has to find its own ways of realizing peace, she said, but women should be an integral part of any peace efforts. Despite the fact that women are still far from being a decisive part of peace processes, the time is now ripe for action and for women to be an integral part of peace processes anywhere in the world.

H.E. Nancy Soderberg, a former U.S. ambassador and appointee by the Clinton Administration as senior director of the National Democratic Institute in Kosovo, stated that without women the crucial issues of our time cannot be addressed. Referring to the previous speaker, she emphasized: "As Ellen said, we can do better by including women into all facets of society. The [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] found narrowing the gap between men and



Emilija Redžepi



H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



H.E. Nancy Soderberg



Hon. Suzana Pribilović

women does bring substantial results in terms of peace and prosperity.

"In Northern Ireland there were women pressing for peace beyond the religious and cultural divide. Put women at the table, and peace will be stronger! Let's take that to heart in the Balkans!" She ended her presentation by stressing that in Kosovo, where more and more women are playing a decisive role, the participation of women will increase chances for prosperity.

Hon. Suzana Pribilović, a judge and former government minister and current member of Parliament from Montenegro, explained that very unfortunately, Montenegro's efforts to join the European Union stalled three years ago. Despite the fact that the Constitution of Montenegro guarantees equality between men and women, it can be observed that the institutions and the general society are still very patriarchal, and the data show very slow changes.

She requested that the institutions in the Balkans in general should do more to prevent violence against women. There are widespread difficulties related to the patriarchal system in the institutions. For example, the current legislation, in case of a divorce, too often causes a very complicated situation for the children of divorced women. Yet there are signs of hope, as many programs in Montenegro are trying to make things easier for women. She concluded by reiterating the conference theme: There is no peace without women being involved in the process.

As the final speaker of the session, **Hon. Anja Margetić**, the deputy mayor of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and an Olympic medal-winning swimmer, expressed her enthusiasm



Hon. Anja Margetić

about the topic of the conference. She expressed her wish that the next conference of this kind would be held in Sarajevo.

As the first female deputy mayor of Sarajevo, she said she was proud to attend this conference as a representative of the mayor. She also said that it was a shame that, despite living in Europe, the importance of women still has to be emphasized.

Sarajevo has been famous for various reasons, she explained: first, as the place where World War I started and then, in the 1990s, because of the dreadful siege and war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But even after the end of hostilities, there is still a threat of violence.

Women have more importance, she said. No mother would send her sons to war. Men do send men to war! She wrapped up her very compelling presentation by stressing that reconciliation isn't needed by the people, but by the politicians. "Women, much more than men, seek practical solutions! Women are used to taking care of others and therefore have more capacities in creating peace and harmony. Unfortunately, it seems that men create war and fall prey to corruption more easily."

Session II:

Women in Development, Integration, and Finance: Advancing Peace

The session chair was **Jacques Marion**, UPF co-chair for Europe and the Middle East, who gave a brief introduction to the session's theme.

Hon. Flora Brovina, a former member of parliament and chairwoman of UPF-Kosovo, was the first speaker. As a professor and human rights activist who spent time in a Serbian prison during the Kosovo War, she spoke about the painful details of the war, including poisoning, rape, and brutality.



But much could be turned around through women, she said. Women's groups in Kosovo are meeting with Serbian women, even when the political leaders from different sides don't dare to do so. There are very active women's parliamentary groups with a creative and strategic focus, she said.

Strikingly, she added: "Hatred is a cancer. Women will protect life, and Kosovo is a peace-loving nation and should never turn into a hateful state. Women bring unique perspectives to war and to wounds of war and peace." Although her parents were sent to Nazi concentration camps, she chose never to bear hatred against the German people.

H.E. Senida Mesi, former deputy prime minister of Kosovo, stressed the need for more men to learn from history and therefore to promote greater inclusion of women into politics. She said that she didn't believe in quotas but, after the terrible genocide in Rwanda, the number of women parliamentarians rose to 66 percent. This is a historical fact. Of course, due to the many men killed in war, women had to take over, and certainly many were not qualified at first.

H.E. Senida Mesi stated that she always would give a hand to younger, less experienced women, because afterward they might excel in their abilities. Our economic livelihood is supported by men and women, she said. How much more could we do in economic development if we engaged more in women's economic empowerment?

In the six Western Balkan countries, a mere 30 to 35 percent of women are active in the economy. Imagine how much economic growth could be generated if more women were economically empowered, she said—and what a difference they could make! Empowered women could contribute 30 percent more to the nation's gross domestic product.

Also, there needs to be a general reform of the current laws in many Balkan nations regulating inheritance, she said. The key question is: How can we support women to benefit all society?

Former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said, "If you want to get a job done, ask a woman to do it." H.E. Senida Mesi ended her presentation by stating, "The world is a very diverse place, and men and women are different, but much more can be done if we work together!"

One of the highlights of this panel was the testimony of **Sally Becker**, a British humanitarian worker and CEO of the charity Save a Child. As Woman of the Year in the United Kingdom in 1994, she saved hundreds of children's lives during the Bosnian and Kosovo wars. She was called the "Angel of Mostar" because of her incredible work to save children in war zones. She continues to take care of and save children in trouble spots such as Israel and Palestine, as well as Ukraine since 2022.

She gave a firsthand account of the frontline situations in the Kosovo War, where she and her convoy of refugee women and children were ambushed. She tried to negotiate with the belligerent soldiers to let the women and children go. She finally managed to get them to safety; however, she was arrested and taken prisoner. She also almost lost her life when she was ambushed again and shot.

She has shown incredible courage and persistence for the sake of suffering civilian populations, especially young children who are trapped in war zones. She touched the audience deeply, as in

Kosovo the memories of the dreadful war years are still in people's minds, causing great grief and suffering to this day.

Biljana Braithwaite, a lawyer and CEO and founding partner at Sustineri Partners and the head of the AIRE Centre's Western Balkans Rule of Law Programme, stated that there is a need for men and women to work together. Women should help men, and men should help women to be empowered.

She doesn't like quotas, she said; however, she realizes that women will not be included automatically, and it is not just a matter of education. There is a need for a clear goal of including women in any process in society through special measures and support mechanisms, she said.

Furthermore, she wonders how to conserve this, so that it serves current and future generations. The proper agenda is critical, she said, even though we don't internalize that. Women on governing boards in the newly named Adria region can be modeled on the basis of European standards.

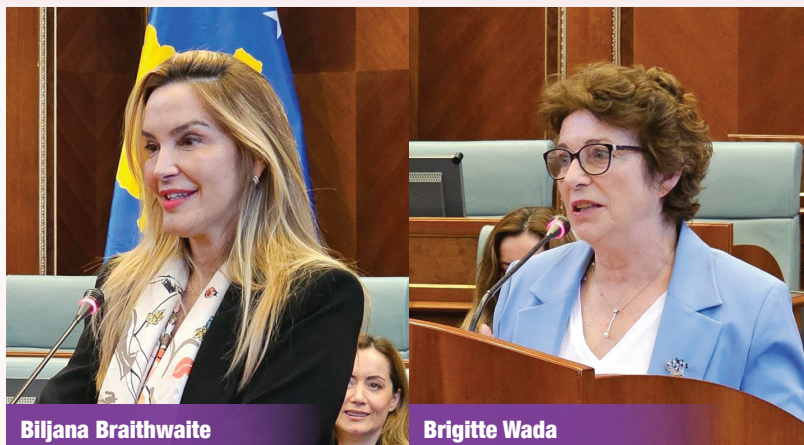
At the end of 2022, the European Union set general standards for women to be part of governing boards in EU territories. There is a need for short- to medium-range measures. There are women who are ready for governing boards. It is better not to create a picture of a perfect board member, but to use diverse and wise criteria in order for women to acquire qualifications and sustainability.

The Adria region is forward-looking, adding Croatia and Slovenia to the Western Balkans, she said. Slovenia has gone far to create a balance between men and women in the private sector and corporate leadership.

As the final speaker of this session, **Brigitte Wada**, vice president of WFWP Europe, mentioned that, more and more, our society is plagued by school violence and bullying. One might ask: Why is this happening?

Some experts think that young people need to come back to basic rules for living together with others, as encouraged by many faith-based efforts, an attitude of loving kindness, simply living for others, based on the teachings of the great faiths.

WFWPI has developed programs on how to guide youth to a more sustainable way of life for the sake of society as a whole and the individual as well. Research has shown that, in 90 percent of cases, the main cause of conflict seems to be misunderstanding. Diversity requires mutual respect, inclusion and integration. By incorporating more women in this process, more promising results will come about.



Biljana Braithwaite

Brigitte Wada

Session III:

Peace Leadership: Access and Opportunities for Young Women in STEM, Media Literacy, and Information Technology

The final session of the conference was facilitated by **Ejona Icka**, the executive director for the Balkans of International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), another organization that is affiliated with UPF. She is also the secretary general of UPF-Kosovo and liaison of the organizers to the government of Kosovo.

The first speaker of the panel, the **Hon. Liza Gashi**, Kosovo's deputy minister of foreign affairs, stated that women are by experience agents of change in a postwar era, and they are the ones who can rebuild the nation. The deputy foreign minister was instrumental in organizing the conference and helped very much to bring guests from Kosovo; she even sponsored the conference's closing banquet.

She referred to the importance of women in peace processes by mentioning a few outstanding women among the people of Kosovo, such as the current president, H.E. Vjosa Osmani, a former law professor and member of parliament who was instrumental in finalizing the constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, among other great efforts.

She also mentioned Hon. Dr. Flora Brovina, former vice president of the Assembly, who was a speaker in the last session. Both of these ladies are considered heroic women in Kosovo.

The Kosovo experience shows that bringing together women and empowering them to take on leadership roles brings great outcomes through women excelling in many fields, Hon. Gashi said. This is true for the economy and finances, entrepreneurial activities and so forth.

As 70 percent of the population of Kosovo is under 35 years of age, there has to be a conscientious effort to include more women as students of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) at universities, thus laying the groundwork for a sustainable and gender-balanced development in the nation.

H.E. Teuta Sahatqija, a former Kosovar ambassador to the UN in New York and former deputy foreign minister, and currently the director of the Kosovo office of Women in Tech, stated that actually it was women who started the dialogue with Serbia—



Ejona Icka

Hon. Liza Gashi

through Serbian women. In this process, she discovered that Serbian women have very similar circumstances and concerns, which allowed them to get together and discuss the way forward. She asked for funding to create an academy for Serbian and Albanian/Kosovar women, which no men would dare to do, even while the wounds were still fresh.

Also, as a tech person she launched the Women in Tech chapter in Kosovo by empowering and teaching women to go into STEM education and technical jobs. It is important to also keep good jobs for women and to transform them and adapt them to the current needs. She closed by saying, “Gender equality was invented by God” in order to have a critical mass for future development.

Astrit Istrefi, chairman of the Balkan Forum, a civil society platform that focuses on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development-related issues in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, stated at the outset that some may expect good news from him in terms of women’s engagement in the Balkans, but he apologized that he couldn’t do that. This was because in terms of women’s engagement in the Balkans, in politics women represent fewer than 15 percent, less than half of the suggested quota of 30 percent. Women are underrepresented as leaders, and one must ask why?

Based on his experience, he said, people in the Balkans want strong leadership, which seems to be provided more often by

the male leaders who traditionally have ruled the region. There is no use to hide the traditional social norms; they are there.

He suggested that the key point for change should be a social transformation in the region, in which social media could be helpful in achieving that. He closed by stating that women need to show more resilience to withstand traditional norms and in this way assure a sustainable future in the region.

As the final speaker of the session, **Dr. Diana Ungureanu**, Moldova, a cardiologist and vice president of IAYSP for Europe and the Middle East, explained her organization’s efforts to empower young people, especially in the Western Balkans, to become agents for change and empowered future leaders. In Moldova, her home country, she is engaged in projects of teaching girls, especially information technology. Young women and girls need to be taught in a safe environment, so that they can build confidence and finally excel

in their professional careers, thus contributing to a more gender-balanced situation in the region. After a short report about such a program that she conducted with 60 participants, she closed her presentation.

The moderator, Ejona Icka, offered some closing remarks for the session and the conference, and the participants assembled for a final photo shoot.

Later in the evening, the efforts of the day culminated in a closing banquet sponsored by the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Kosovo, hosted by Hon. Liza Gashi. The participants were offered tasty local food and finally were stimulated to dance together to the sound of a very vibrant local music group. ❖

*Written by Heiner Handschin,
Director, UPF Office for UN Relations, Geneva*

*This report can be found at
archive.UPF.org/article/10892 or
upf.org/post/upf-eume-s-first-ladies-association-sponsors-no-peace-without-women-conference*



H.E. Teuta Sahatqija



Astrit Istrefi

Dr. Diana Ungureanu

Conference Participants





National Parents Day was celebrated in the Arbor Ballroom at The Washington Times building in Washington D.C.

UPF-USA, ACLC AND WOMEN IN MINISTRY CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARENTS DAY 2023

Washington D.C., United States | July 22, 2023

The UPF-USA and ACLC, Women in Ministry celebrated National Parents Day for the DMV area (D.C., Maryland and Virginia) on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at the Arbor Ballroom at The Washington Times building. Over 150 people gathered, including the awardees and their families and friends. It was a joyous and happy gathering to honor the nominated outstanding couples and enjoy delicious food.

Mr. Larry Moffitt, secretary general of UPF-USA, was the emcee. The program began with an invocation by Rev. Dr. Sharon Anderson, executive pastor of Temple of Praise, followed by a musical selection, Open My Heart, sung by Rasheedah Sharif.

Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, senior vice president of UPF-USA, welcomed the participants and guests on behalf of all the sponsoring organizations and thanked them for their recognition of the importance of this day. She read a quote from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Co-Founder of UPF, who in her address at the US Congress in 1993 declared: “The family is society’s eternally unchanging origin, foundation, and building block. Neither your nation nor the world is the base for your happiness. Your family is. Therefore, the ideals we first seek should not be in the world. They must be in our family.”



Mr. Larry Moffitt



Mrs. Tomiko Duggan



Ms. Rasheedah Sharif performs



Min. Reiko Jenkins

Rev. Zagery Oliver

Minister Reiko Jenkins, co-chair of ACLC, Women in Ministry, a co-sponsoring organization, expressed her joy and honor to be invited to such a beautiful event. She remarked that we are facing such a confusing time in finding the value of marriage between a man and woman and the importance of celebrating and honoring parents as we are created, male and female, in the image of God.

Rev. Zagery Oliver, executive vice president of UFP, USA, spoke about how he has seen movies and TV programs about divorced parents, and observes when one parent comes to pick up the child from the other parent's house to spend time with him, the struggle within that child is portrayed as so painful. We understand why the child is in turmoil, because the child needs both parents.

Today there are cultural clichés of single parenthood, such as: "I don't need no man" and claiming that the traditional need for a mom and dad to be in the same home is antiquated and not expected or relevant in contemporary life. But we know the order and balance of this vast universe functions harmoniously by the universal law of complementary elements. That same complementary power is translated into creating true love and harmony in the beautiful structure of Mom and Dad.

The keynote speakers were **Ed Polk** and **Sharon Polk**, the recipients of the National Parents Day Award in 2022. Ed Polk

shared that there is no more critical thing than being a parent to children. Parents are shaping the minds and hearts of the next generations. We do not have a manuscript on how we raise children; we all had to figure it out. Fortunately, God is teaching us how to become good parents. Ultimately, we have to focus on a God-centered family.

As the son of two preachers, he recognizes the need not to forget God's Words or turn away from them. He said we must dig into those words and figure out what God tells us to do. He started forcing himself to read God's words daily and seek what God told him to do. We get to know what God is asking us. From God's commands and wisdom, we develop good judgment and instruction in life.

When you face difficulties and challenges, you have to make a decision; go back to the Words. It is easy to have faith when everything is going well, when God is pouring abundant blessings on you. But when everything is taken away and you must go through the most challenging moments of your life, is your faith still there? Can you still say to God, "God, I love you"? Do you still have faith in God?

Mr. Polk stated that his family had gone through many difficulties. His advice: If you listen to God's word, obey God, and let Him guide your life, everything will work out. You may not know how to get from point A to point Z, but learn to get to point B, and you will always find God's plan for you.

Mrs. Angelika Selle, representing the Selection Committee for the National Parents Day for the Year 2023, introduced the outstanding DMV 2023 awardees.



Mrs. Angelika Selle

Keynote speakers Mrs. Sharon Polk and Mr. Ed Polk



National Parents Day Awardees:



Mayor Tim Adams, mayor of Bowie, Maryland, and Judge Sheila Tillerson-Adams

Mayor Adams grew up in deep poverty in New Orleans but lifted himself through education. Some 20 years ago, he suffered a slip-and-fall and was left paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair. Elected in 2019, he is the first black mayor of Bowie and the first Bowie mayor who is disabled.



Mr. Thai Thanh Nguyen and Mrs. Ngoc-Thuan (Tina) Le

As children of immigrants, they are uniquely positioned to bridge between two worlds: their Vietnamese culture and their lives in the United States. These two worlds constantly challenge them, but their respect toward their parents has never swayed, from whom they inherited the value of hard work and service to the community.

Pastor Pamela Peebles

Her husband, Rev. James Peebles, passed away in 1997. His sudden death caused her to suffer, but she gained the strength and power of God to become a minister. Her two children have married and she now has five grandchildren.



Mr. Angel M. and Mrs. Sonia Mabel Reyes

Mr. Reyes suffered a gunshot wound while at work; the damage has altered their lives. Mr. Reyes, a big, robust, hard-working husband, and father, was now struggling to survive. In spite of this tragedy, this couple has invested many years of sacrificial love and caring not only for each other but with parental concern and support for the large immigrant community of their neighborhoods.



Dr. Surinder Singh Gill and Mrs. Rajinder Kaur Gill

Dr. Gill commented that they allowed their children to be independent from the very beginning. The children made their own decisions regarding academics and choices in food and clothing. They were taught to do what was good for them and acceptable to the community.



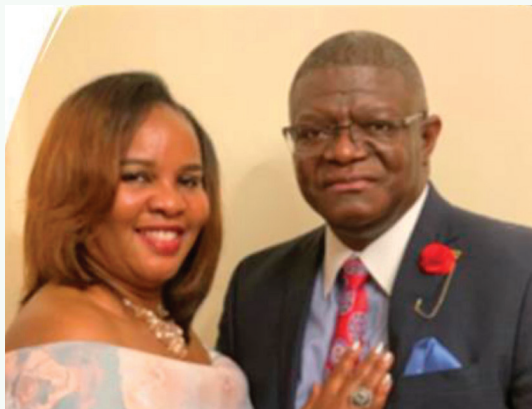
Family of Hon. Douglas Peters & Mrs. Joyce Peters

Hon. Douglas Peters and Mrs. Joyce Peters

Sen. Peters served on the Bowie City Council for four years, the Prince George's County Council for four years, and the Maryland Senate for 15 years. He was instrumental in constructing a vast hospital complex in Largo, Maryland. Douglas Peters and Joyce Peters have raised six extraordinary children.



Group Photo with the Awardees and the event organizers



Pastor Manyango Wilson and Mrs. Angela Wilson
Recipients of the National Parents Day Award 2023

Pastor Manyango came to the USA to attend college in North Carolina after being sentenced to death (as a student leader) and released by the then-military government in his home country (Liberia). His best gift from God (after his salvation through Christ), the love of his life, Angela, joined him a year later. They have been married for 34 years, raised four awesome children, and were blessed with an additional child after she lost her mother to cancer.

The program ended with a final song by Pastor Michael Nattles, an evangelist, expressing his appreciation for those who contributed to the program.❖

*Written by Mrs. Tomiko Duggan,
Senior Vice President, UPF-USA*

*This report can be found online at
archive.UPF.org/article/10923 or
upf.org/post/upf-usa-aclc-and-women-in-ministry-celebrate-national-parents-day-2023*



Song from Pastor Michael Nettle





ILC CAMBODIA 2023: EXECUTIVE REPORT

Phnom Penh, Cambodia | July 24, 2023

To support practical steps towards building a culture of peace, democracy, good governance and development, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), in cooperation with the Asian Vision Institute (AVI), supported by the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP), convened the International Leadership Conference (ILC) Cambodia in Phnom Penh from July 21 to 24, 2023.

As many as 253 participants from 50 nations, including seven current and former heads of state and government, 45 parliamentarians and 15 organizations, came together in-person to deliberate on the theme “Peace and Democracy” and to be observers of Cambodia’s 2023 general election. A total of 2,319 people watched the livestream of the conference via iPeaceTV and YouTube.

ILC Cambodia provided an ideal opportunity for UPF and AVI to further develop their partnership as they explored important projects with a special emphasis on the Asia Pacific Union (APU) initiative and Universal Peace Charter (UPC). This initiative is based on the common vision for peace and prosperity of UPF co-founder **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** and

Cambodia’s Prime Minister **H.E. Samdech Techo Hun Sen**.

In his inaugural message to the conference, H.E. Sen affirmed: “My experience has taught that it is only peaceful means—open and sincere peace talks and mutual consultation—that ensure the realization of peace. Through years of experience, they taught us that we cannot use war to end war.”

In her Founder’s message, Dr. Moon stated that “Unity and world peace can only be achieved by acknowledging and attending the Creator and Owner of this universe as our Parent... There is a path for humanity to move toward a singular objective through the Asian continent, which serves as the bedrock of Asia’s spiritual civilization.”

The welcome dinner on July 21 was hosted by the government of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Entertainment for this event featured beautiful Cambodian music and dance and included the World Expo 2030 Busan, Korea Promotional Team. The speakers that evening welcomed the guests, some of who had travelled for 30 hours, and raised the expectations that this conference would be a unique and enriching experience for everyone.

Welcome Dinner at Hyatt Regency Hotel



Performances during the Welcome Dinner





Video message from UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon



Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal

Session I began after lunch the following day on July 22 with the theme “Peace and Democracy.” Representing the ILC Cambodia Organizing Committee was **Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal**, a member of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Nepal, and **Bundit Sapheacha Dr. Sok Siphana**, chairman of

the board of directors of the Asian Vision Institute, who warmly welcomed the participants. This was followed by a video message from UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Dr. Charles S. Yang, chairman of UPF, stated that the era of the Pacific civilization has dawned and that the emerging Asian civilization will usher in a complementary age of spirituality centered on universal values rooted in the family. **Hon. Dan Burton**, a former member of the United States Congress (1983-2013) and co-chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), commended Dr. Moon for creating IAPP, which he sees as one of the most needed bodies for peace. **H.E. Tep Ngorn**, second vice-president of the Sen-

ate of Cambodia, concluded the session with his remarks in which he said that peace is the precondition for all development, including democracy, good governance and economic development.

Session II was on the theme “Peace, Democracy, Good Governance and Development: Towards a Culture of Peace in Asia-Pacific and the World.” Distinguished world leaders delivered keynote addresses which focused particularly on the crucial role of bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation in maintaining peace and harmony in the world. The following speakers shared their wisdom and expertise based on their experiences serving as national and global leaders:

- **Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend**, former speaker of the Parliament (2000-2002) and defense minister (1987-1990, 1990-2000) of Austria
- **H.E. Goodluck Jonathan**, president of Nigeria (2010-2015) and chair of the International Summit Council for Peace-Africa
- **H.E. Jimmy Morales**, president of Guatemala (2016-2020) via video message
- **H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli**, prime minister of Nepal (2015-2016, 2018-2021)
- **H.E. Yusuf Raza Gilani**, prime minister of Pakistan (2008-2012)
- **H.E. Maithripala Sirisena**, president (2015-2019) and member of the Parliament of Sri Lanka
- **H.E. Andres Pastrana Arango**, president of Colombia (1998-2002)
- **Dr. Yong-cheon Song**, international president, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)



Dr. Charles S. Yang



Dr. Yong-cheon Song



Group Photo with the ILC VIP Speakers



Women Leaders Session



Mrs. Moriko Hori

In Session III, several peace initiatives that were proposed and resolutions that were adopted during UPF's World Summit 2022 and Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference were discussed. Specifically, the Asia Pacific Union initiative, Universal Peace Charter, the "Two States Toward One Nation: One Peninsula, One People, One Culture" initiative and the "Global Vision Toward One Planet, One Humanity, One Global Culture of Peace" initiative were deliberated on in detail.

Afterwards, the Presidency Handover Ceremony of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace took place, signifying the transfer of leadership to **Hon. Suos Yara**. The event marked an important moment in IPTP's history and showcased its commitment to promoting tolerance and peace under its new leadership.

Hon. Khuon Sudary, chairperson of the Asian Cultural Council and vice president of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, who presided over the ceremony, commended the appointment of Hon. Suos as the next president of IPTP and praised Cambodia's remarkable progress in the areas of peace, stability and development. **Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan**, president of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), announced that a regional office of the GCTP for the Asia Pacific region will be set up in Cambodia to implement a number of projects and activities, including the Universal Peace Charter, food security and international trade in the Mekong region and beyond.

The day concluded with a dinner hosted by **H.E. Prak Sokhonn**, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On July 23, **Mrs. Moriko Hori**, international president of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an affiliated organization, chaired a special session for women leaders in recognition of the need to strengthen women's roles in fostering a culture of peace.

In the same afternoon, a high-level session of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace provided an invaluable platform for lawmakers, experts and diplomats to deliberate on the successful election in Cambodia, the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and the pursuit of peace between Russia and Ukraine.

A special International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) dinner was hosted in honor of the participating former heads of state and government, during which H.E. Sirisena was appointed as the new chair of the ISCP in the Asia Pacific region.



H.E. Sirisena appointed as Chair of ISCP in the Asia Pacific region

H.E. Suos Yara with AVI and UPF organizing committee members and staff





Parliamentarians Session

The participants had the privilege to observe another historic election of members of the Cambodian National Assembly for the Seventh Legislature, which marked the 30th anniversary of the first general election held in 1993. During a press conference the morning of July 24, leaders representing the ISCP, IAPP or their national delegation shared their observations on this year's election process and testified to the progressive development and maturity of Cambodian democracy.

The visit to the genocide museum deeply impacted the conference participants. Cambodia's democratization journey since the end of its civil war over 45 years ago showcases the value of peace and national stability. The participants reached an understanding that interdependence, mutual prosperity and shared values shall be upheld. Furthermore, six elements were highlighted to foster "comprehensive peace," such as shared prosperity, a just and fair international order, human rights and fundamental freedoms, fostering a safe planet for future generations and inclusive education. ❖

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific

This article is available online at archive.UPF.org/article/10909 or upf.org/post/ilc-cambodia-2023-executive-report



ILC Cambodia 2023 Participants



Press Conference with UPF Observers



ILC participants as international election observers, visiting polling stations

Dr. Yang led the UPF delegation visiting the Killing Field Memorial and prayed for the souls of victims and perpetrators.





Main Speakers of the Parliamentarian Leadership Conference in Sri Lanka

© Parliament of Sri Lanka | Nuwan Duminda UG

UPF CONFERENCE AT SRI LANKAN PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

Colombo, Sri Lanka | December 6, 2023

The Parliament of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), co-organized a Parliamentarians Leadership Conference at the Sri Lankan Parliament with the theme, “Accountability in Action: Fostering Transparency and Good Governance Among Parliamentarians.” The conference, sponsored by UPF, was attended by over 150 participants from six Asian countries.

During the event, Sri Lankan Prime Minister **Dinesh Gunawardena** and Speaker **Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana** were honored as Ambassadors for Peace.

Addressing the conference, President **Ranil Wickremesinghe** commended the organizers for choosing Sri Lanka to host the peace conference at a time of escalating conflict in the Middle East and Europe. The president stressed that transparency and good governance are needed for securing peace. He also highlighted his government’s forming of oversight committees to ensure transparency in the country.

President Wickremesinghe emphasized the necessity of implementing measures that ensure accountability. “Legislation and accountability in action are needed,” he said. He explained the Sri Lankan government’s strategies, including diagnostic evaluations, rigorous auditing, and parliamentary oversight in managing public funds, setting a benchmark for transparent

governance and responsible resource allocation in the country.

UPF International Chairman **Dr. Charles S. Yang** conveyed the UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s good wishes to the participants and people of Sri Lanka. He acknowledged the contributions of the Sri Lankan government and Parliament in collaboration with UPF, describing the relationship between UPF and Sri Lanka as “deep, wide and historical.”

Dr. Yang urged parliamentarians to contribute to creating healthy and transparent economic systems within their country. Sharing the example of his home country, Korea, in overcoming the 1997 Asian financial crisis, he encouraged the Sri Lankan people to unite to overcome their current economic crisis. Dr. Yang also called for a cultural shift, returning to universal values and traditions. He said that the core teachings of UPF’s co-founders, Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon—unselfishness, living for the sake of others, public-mindedness, altruism, delayed gratification, and the willingness to sacrifice—are key to creating a culture of peace.

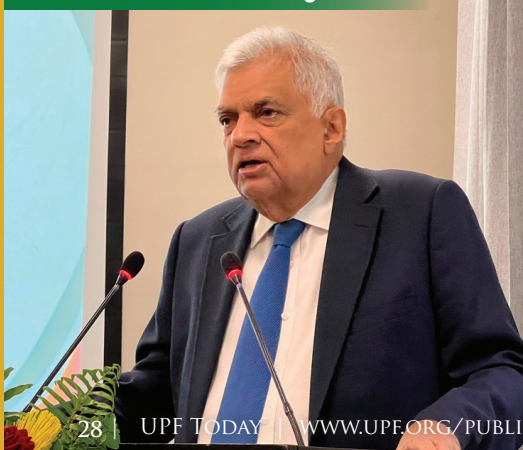
Dr. Yang introduced Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s proposal for the establishment of an Asia Pacific Union (APU), a broad-based, independent, non-political body of like-minded individuals and organizations from the community of Asia Pacific nations. The APU can be a venue to share best practices, encourage economic growth, promote tourism, and advance peace.

Parliament Speaker **Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana** greeted

President Ranil Wickremesinghe

Dr. Charles S Yang

Hon. Mahinda Abeywardana





Audience and Participants at the Parliamentary Leadership Conference

© Parliament of Sri Lanka | Nuwan Duminda UG

participants, and expressed appreciation for Dr. Moon's focus on promoting peace and dialogue throughout the world.

Former President **Maithripala Sirisena** also spoke, saying that peace is the only way to a better future for humanity and urging participants to become peacemakers. He expressed concern about the heavy expenditure of resources on wars and conflicts globally, with no concern for the disadvantaged people of the world.

Lawmaker from Nepal and Chair of IAPP Asia Pacific **Ek Nath Dhakal** said that the credibility of democratic institutions hinges on the trust citizens place in their elected officials. Hon. Dhakal noted that in the Asia-Pacific region, where diverse cultures and political systems coexist, the call for accountability resonates deeply. It is the linchpin for sustainable development and regional stability, he said.

Hon. Dhakal lamented the passivity of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and called for member states to uphold its founding ideals for creating a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient South Asia. He described his home country of Nepal as a nation with a rich tapestry of history and a commitment to democratic values, saying, "The citizens of Nepal, like those around the world, demand transparency and accountability from their government and elected representatives."

Malaysian lawmaker **Hon. Kulasegaran Murugeson** emphasized the rule of law as an important component of good governance. He added that Malaysia's successful growth is

due to accountability in action.

Other Sri Lankan speakers included Minister of Education **Hon. Susil Premajayantha** and parliamentarian **Hon. Mrs. Thalatha Athukorale**. Asia Pacific regional leader of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFW-PU), **Rev. Masaichi Hori** from Japan, emphasized that only by practicing true love can we bring positive change in society. **Dr. Edgar Tanate** from the Philippines gave an overview of the activities of UPF, IAPP and affiliated organizations in contributing to peace and the welfare of humanity. UPF-South Asia Director **Rev. Santosh Paudel** and Secretary General of UPF-Sri Lanka **Dr. Chula Senaratne** moderated the event.

The co-chair of IAPP, former US Congressman **Dan Burton**, addressed the conference by video. He extended the solidarity of the worldwide IAPP network to the Sri Lankan Parliament and encouraged lawmakers to foster transparency and good governance. International Coordinator of IAPP **Dr. Michael Jenkins** (USA), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Commission of the National Assembly of Cambodia **Hon. Suos Yara** (Cambodia), Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare of the Indian Parliament **Hon. Bhubaneswar Kalita** (India) and Member of Parliament of Indonesia, **Hon. Dave Fikarno Laksono** were among the lawmakers from the Asia Pacific region who presented their perspectives on accountability, transparency and good governance.



Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Dinesh Gunawardena was among four eminent personalities who were honored as Ambassadors for Peace. The other recipients were Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, Minister of Education Dr. Susil Premajayantha, and Secretary General of Parliament Kushani Anusha Rohanadheera.

Ambassadors for Peace belong to the largest and most diverse network of peace leaders. They are from all walks of life; represent many races, religions, nationalities, and cultures; and are committed to building a world of lasting peace and harmony.

The visiting high-level UPF delegation, led by International Chairman Dr. Charles Yang, called on former President Mahinda Rajapaksa and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa. Dr. Yang also paid a visit to the Buddhist temple Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya, and met Venerable Dr. Bellanwila Dhammaratana Nayaka Thera. ❖

*Written by Ek Nath Dhakal,
UPF Regional Chair for Asia-Pacific*

*This article is available online at
archive.UPF.org/article/10988 or
upf.org/post/upf-conference-at-sri-lankan-parliament-calls-for-regional-cooperation*



Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana receives Ambassadors for Peace Award



Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena receives Ambassadors for Peace Award



Meeting with Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa



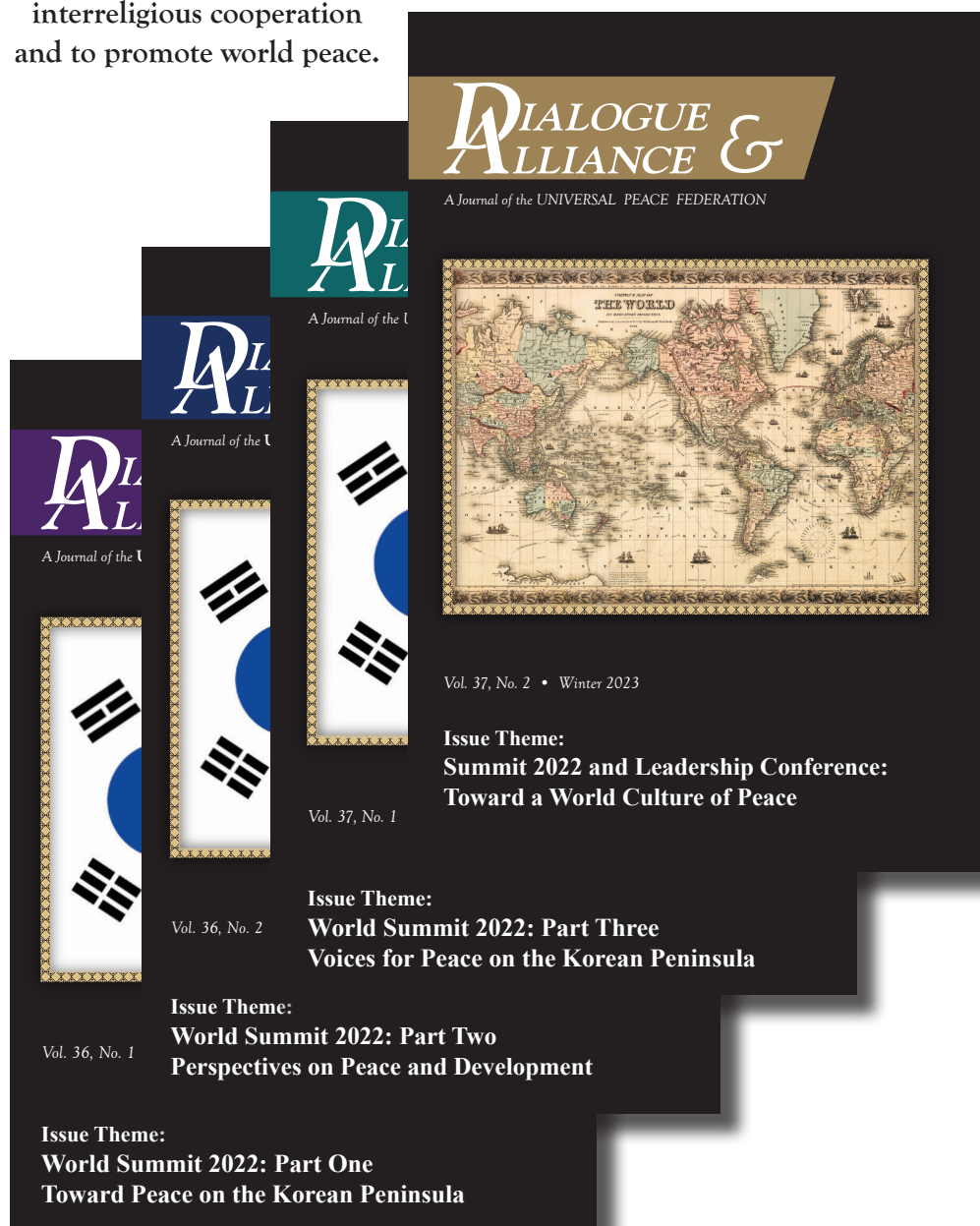
Meeting with Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa



Dialogue and Alliance

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

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



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

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: AFRICA



Regional Webinar to Celebrate The Heroes of Peace and Reconciliation on Nelson Mandela International Day:

UPF Africa celebrated UN Nelson Mandela Day on July 18, 2023 to promote the contemporary heroes of Peace, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

The webinar, themed “Celebrating contemporary heroes of peace and reconciliation in our time: Take action! Inspire positive change and Become Peace-Love Word Citizen!”, aimed to honor individuals who have contributed significantly to peace and reconciliation globally. It emphasized the importance of building peace and highlighted the role of figures like Nelson Mandela, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

The event was inspired by Nelson Mandela International Day, celebrated annually since 2010, which reminds people of their ability to inspire positive change. It called on individuals to follow the examples of these peace heroes, promoting values such as human well-being, peace, reconciliation, and altruism. The webinar featured speakers from various backgrounds, including governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental institutions, discussing the achievements and visions of these contemporary peace champions.



Key panelists and keynote speakers:

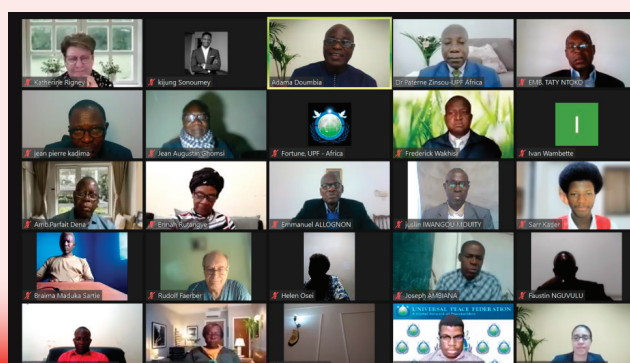
- **Rev. Dr. Henrietta Dennis-Jacobs** (PHD, FCFIP, ACTI, JP.) Co-founder Dennietta Ministries Int. Inc, Founder, God's Leading Ladies International, a network of Christian, Nigeria

- **Dr. Katherine Rigney**, Cheon Eui Won Co-Chair and UPF Africa Chairperson
- **Hon. Chief Zwelivelile Mandela**, Grandson of Nelson Mandela
- **Dr. Chang Shik Yang**, International Chairman of Universal Peace Federation International
- **H.E. Dr. Boni Yayi**, Former President of Benin and Former President of the African Union
- **H.E. Dr. Goodluck Jonathan**, Former President of Nigeria and Chairman of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP)
- **H.E. Dr. Nevers Mumba**, Former Vice-President of Zambia
- **H.E. Dr. Beyon Luc-Adolphe Tiao**, Former Prime Minister of Burkina Faso
- **H.E. Dr. Patricia Kaliati**, Former Cabinet Minister, Malawi
- **Rt Hon. Petros Mavimbela**, Speaker of Parliament Eswatini
- **His Eminence Samuel Nitufuidi Masambukidi**, Legal Representative of the 'Eglise Lumière du Christ in Congo (E.L.U.C.CO.)
- **Rev. Bakary Camara**, CEW Co-Chair Africa Region
- **Rev. Jean Pierre Kadima**, Regional President of FFWPU Africa Region

Commemoration of the 18th Anniversary of UPF:

UPF Africa Region held a commemorative webinar to celebrate the 18th Anniversary of the Founding of the Universal Peace Federation (September 12, 2005-September 12, 2023) in the presence of Dr. Charles S. Yang, Chairman of UPF International with Ambassadors for Peace and VIPs. The purpose of this webinar is to:

- Celebrate the 18th anniversary of the founding UPF.
- Highlight UPF's achievements and impact in promoting peace, justice and sustainable development worldwide.
- To sensitize an international audience to UPF's objectives and activities.
- Contribute to strengthening the mission and vocation of Ambassadors for Peace.
- To promote the development of UPF Associations at regional and national levels, and to provide clear guidelines for their development.



UPF Africa held a meeting commemorating its 18th anniversary, beginning with an opening ceremony led by Dr. Paterné Zinsou and a prayer by Reverend Jean Augustin Ghomsi. Co-chair Dr. Katherine Rigney emphasized unity among True Parents' organizations for global restoration, highlighting Africa's significance. Ambassador Adama Doumbia discussed UPF's early days and stressed Africa's support for Expo 2023 in South Korea.

Updates on Expo 2023 were provided, urging more countries to participate. In Session 2, Dr. Zinsou delivered a presentation on sustainable development goals and partnerships with the UN, emphasizing True Parents' vision and the significance of Ambassadors for Peace. He also discussed UPF's status within the ECOSOC framework and the Heavenly Africa Project.

The meeting emphasized UPF's mission, unity, and support for Africa's role in global restoration. Participants were urged to take action, with only 60 days left to submit countries supporting Expo 2023. Dr. Zinsou's presentation provided insight into UPF's commitment, principles, and ongoing activities, highlighting the importance of commemorating UN International Days.

UPF Africa - International Leadership Conference in Mozambique:

UPF Africa organized a special International Leadership Conference (ILC) on January 7-8, 2023 in Maputo, Mozambique. The theme of the ILC was "Innovative Solutions for Peace in Africa: The Central Role of Parliamentarians and Spiritual Leaders". Over 100 participants attended the event, from several African countries and beyond, representing a wide range of sectors, including government, parliament, religion, academia, media, business and the arts.



ILC in Mozambique

Keynote Speakers:

- **H.E. Dr Goodluck Jonathan**, Former President of Nigeria, Chairman of ISCP
- **H.E. Brigi Rafini**, former Prime Minister of Niger, former Executive Secretary of CEN-SAD
- **Imboni Dr. uZwi-Lezwe Radebe**, Chairman IAPD
- **H.E. Dr. Neves Mumba**, former Vice-President of Zambia
- **H.E. Dr. Beyon Luc-Adolphe Tiao**, former Vice-president of Burkina Faso
- **H.E. Petros Mavimbela**, Speaker of the National Assembly of Eswatini
- **Honorable Maimouna Yombouno**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Guinea
- **Hon. Songa Biyika Lawrence**, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee of Climate Change, Uganda Parliament
- **Honorable Patrick Nathan Ifon**, MP, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- **Honorable Ana Rita Sithole**, parliamentarian from Mozambique

- **Cheikh Mansour Diouf**, Representative of the Khalif General of the Murids, Dakar, Senegal
- **Rev Father Louison Mbila**, Chaplain, African Union
- **Honorable Eliot Kamondo**, MP Zambia
- **Honorable Della Sowah**, MP Ghana
- **Hon. Kenneth Sandla Fakudze**, MP Eswatini
- **Hon. Temba Mliswa**, MP Zimbabwe

Africa Spiritual Day:

Africa Spiritual Day is a special interfaith event organized by the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) Africa. Founded in 2017 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, as Universal Peace Federation Association. The event aims to promote peace, harmony, and development in Africa through interfaith dialogue and cooperation. It seeks to promote unity among spiritual and religious leaders, as well as to support the objectives of the African Union (AU) for sustainable peace.

This significant event features spiritual and religious leaders praying together and sharing inspiration to promote peace and understanding. It is also broadcast live online to allow Africans and friends of Africa worldwide to participate.

Overall, Africa Spiritual Day is a call for unity and cooperation among Africans and people of all faiths to address the challenges facing the continent and the world. It seeks to inspire hope and courage to pioneer a new approach to global governance based on peace, harmony, and mutual respect.

Key attendees of the ASD events:

- **Archbishop Johanes Ndanga**, IAPD Africa Special Advisor
- **Imboni Dr Uzwi Lezwe Radebe**, IAPD Africa Chairman
- **Cheikh El Hadj Mansour Diouf**, IAPD Africa Special Advisor
- **Dr. Taj Hamad**, International coordinator of IAPD
- **Bishop Dr. Emmah Gospel Isong**, founder and presiding bishop of Christian Central Chapel International
- **Father Luisson Bissila Mbila**, chaplain of the catholic church
- **El Hadj Habib Kane**, national director of religious affairs, the government of Mali
- **Archbishop Dr. Peter Rhody**, founder of Bible Gospel Church in Africa – BIGOCA
- **Grand Mufti Assadulah Mwale**, Muslim leader of Zambia.



Africa Spirituality Day



Africa Spirituality Day



Dr. Charles S. Yang with Samdech Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia



Dr. Yang with H.E. Khuon Sudary, President of National Assembly

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: ASIA PACIFIC

The road towards establishing the Asia Pacific Union:

The year 2023 is set with different milestones and achievements from the Asia Pacific region. In collaboration with government, civil society and faith based organizations, various programs were organized in support of the UPF Founder's call for an Asia Pacific Union (APU).

In Cambodia, UPF was invited to observe its General Elections and thereafter witnessed the landslide victory of the new leader. Dr. Charles S. Yang officially congratulated the newly elected Prime Minister Samdech Hun Manet who reconfirmed his government's commitment towards the development of an Asia Pacific Union. Dr. Yang's delegation also met with H.E. Khuon Sudary, the first woman President of the National Assembly of Cambodia. During the ISCP/ IAPP Assembly at the Sri Lankan Parliament on December 6, 2023, the keynote speakers also called for greater regional cooperation. During Dr. Charles S. Yang's meeting with the Thailand Minister of Defense, Hon. Sutin Klungsang in Bangkok on January 26, 2024. Hon. Sutin expressed his support for the APU Initiative.

The International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) organized the Book launching Ceremony of "*Mother of Peace: A Memoir by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon*" in Nepali Edition on July 3, 2023. Mother Moon's autobiography has been published in 18 Asian languages. Mother Moon promotes Filial

Events of Significance:

- **Cambodia:** Dr. Charles S. Yang's Meeting with Samdech Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia and with H.E. Khoun Sudary, President of National Assembly, Phnom Penh
- **Thailand:** Dr. Charles S. Yang's Meeting with Thailand Minister of Defense Hon. Sutin Klungsang, January 26, 2024 and UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration, Bangkok, January 27, 2024, 250 participants
- **Philippines:** Ambassadors for Peace Assembly, Quezon City, November 7, 2023
- **Nepal:** Book Launching Ceremony of "*Mother of Peace: A Memoir by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon*" in Nepali Edition, July 3, 2023, by IAFLP and WFWP
- **China:** Asia Pacific Filial Piety Leadership Conference, Hong Kong, July 14-15, 2023

Piety as a core value in bringing peace to families, societies and nations, which resonates with traditional Chinese culture. The Asia Pacific Filial Piety Leadership Conference was held at Hong Kong on July 14 - 15, 2023 with almost 300 participants including 60 dignitaries from overseas.

The Philippines held its Ambassadors for Peace Assembly on November 7, 2023. The movie star turned politician Senator, Hon. Robinhood 'Robin' Padilla, expressed his unwavering support to the cause of peace.



Book Launching Ceremony of "Mother of Peace" in Nepali Edition



UPF leaders with Hon. So Yuk Choy



Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration at Bangkok Thailand (January 27, 2024)

Another pillar of UPF's peace building initiatives are its interfaith activities, Indonesia organized the **Interfaith Dialogue: IAPD-IAPP Joint Assembly** with the theme "The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Interfaith Cooperation in Nation-Building" at Istiqlal Grand Mosque, Jakarta on October 17, 2023. The Grand Imam, Prof. Dr. K.H. Nasaruddin Umar highlighted the need for interfaith cooperation such as the creation of the 'Tunnel of Friendship' connecting the Grand Mosque with the oldest Catholic cathedral in Jakarta. Many Asia Pacific nations celebrated the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, the main regional event attended by UPF Chair Dr. Charles S. Yang was held in Bangkok on January 27, 2024. Representatives of the four major religions in Thailand gave prayers and spoke on the theme, "The Role of Religion in Creating a Peaceful Society". In Australia, Ambassadors for Peace and representatives from different sectors gathered to celebrate the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, "Love of Good and Love of Neighbor" on February 5, 2024 at the Peace Embassy, Sydney, Australia.

India celebrated the UN Global Day of Parents as an interfaith peace service attended by 100 participants on June 3, 2023. Following this interfaith event, UPF Chair, Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal visited His Holiness Baba Kalidas, Spiritual Advisor of the Prime Minister of India at his temple and congratulated him for his appointment as an Ambassador of Peace.

Events of Significance:

- **Indonesia:** Interfaith Dialogue: IAPD-IAPP Joint Assembly on "The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Interfaith Cooperation in Nation-Building" at Istiqlal Grand Mosque, Jakarta, October 17, 2023
- **India:** Celebration of United Nations Global Day of Parents, June 3, 2023, 100 participants and Celebration of United Nations International Day of Peace and Non-violence, Sept. 24, 2023 in different states of India
- **Thailand:** UN International Day of Peace Celebration, September 21, 2023, over 1 million participants in 3,310 venues
- **Indonesia:** Interfaith Dialogue: IAPD-IAPP Joint Assembly on "The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Interfaith Cooperation in Nation-Building" at Istiqlal Grand Mosque, Jakarta, October 17, 2023
- **Australia:** UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, "Love of Good and Love of Neighbour", Sydney, Feb. 5, 2024
- **Malaysia:** Peace Road - Malaysia "Connect for Inclusiveness", Aug. 6, 2023, 500 participants Conference, Hong Kong, July 14-15, 2023



Water Ceremony at Jakarta



Visit to His Excellency Baba Kalidas



Interfaith Harmony Week at Australia



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: CENTRAL AMERICA

Tour of Dr. Ricardo de Sena, as president of the UPF Central America and the Caribbean Region

CUBA (September)

Dr. Ricardo de Sena visited Cuba meeting with several Ambassadors for Peace (AFP).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (September)

He met with the President of the National Assembly who is also the President of FOPREL Mr. Alfredo Pacheco.

COSTA RICA (September)

He visited the National Assembly and several municipalities. He appointed new AFPs including the Presidency of the IAACP the mayor of the County of Dota Mrs. Mary Marin Navarro.

In February 10, 2024 the Municipality of Dota and UPF held the Peace Road with 250 athletes.

HONDURAS (October)

During his visit to Honduras, he met with a grassroots team of Ambassadors for Peace with whom he was able to share his dreams and hopes to develop the region as a zone of peace.

Also he was able to meet the president of the Congress Mr. Luis Redondo appointing him as President of the IAPP Honduras and the Vicepresident Mr. Salvador Nasralla appointing him

as President of the ISCP. Including AFP Mr. David Reyes CEO of the National Congress and his family. Then the president of Jose Cecilio University and the Pastor Noé Corea Crist Is My King. In all cases he spoke and reinforced the UPF Universal values and goal.

MEXICO (November)

Dr. de Sena visited Mexico where he had a very tough agenda visiting 5 states in few days in which he unveiled the Dove of Peace as part of an ongoing program between the Mexico UPF, AFP, governors and municipalities.

EL SALVADOR (December)

He met with the vicepresident of El Salvador Mr. Felix Ulloa and also the Secretary of State on Education Mr. José Mauricio Pineda

NICARAGUA (December)

Dr. de Sena was the key speaker at the closure of the school year in Character Education Program at the Ciencias Comerciales University UCC. Also, he had a meeting with Mr. Ariel Alvarado the Executive Secretary of FOPREL a forum for Presidents of Parliaments in the region.

In all these countries Dr. de Sena encouraged the national representatives to hold forums of peace in their assemblies, organize the PEACE ROAD and introduce Character Education at all levels.



Costa Rica



Honduras



Mexico



Dr. Charles Yang & Central America

Right after the appointment of Dr. Chales Yang as UPF International Chairman he was invited to Central America and the Caribbean region to the XXIX Extraordinary Meeting of FOPREL a comprehensive organization at the regional level made up of Presidents of the legislative assemblies of the member countries.

The invitation came from our UPF Ambassador for Peace and President of the National Congress of Honduras Mr. Luis Redondo who was the host of this event at the beautiful Bay Island of Roatan 24 and 25 of August 2023.

This was a great opportunity for Dr. Yang to meet top leaders of the region as the pro tempore president Mr. Alfredo Pacheco president of the Dominican Republic's national Assembly, representatives and commission team and international cooperant organizations as UNICEF, FAO, OIM, Save the children and others. Also, diplomats of other regions as observers like the Argentinian and Spain delegations.

There were two very remarkable decisions. First, Honduras proposed the project to introduce at the International Court of Justice Spanish as an official language to solve our problems in

Latin America since for now only English and French are recognized. And second, Mr. Redondo decreed, considering that FOPREL had lost all of its assets in Nicaragua due to political causes, Honduras will provide shelter to set up its offices.

At the end of the plenaries Dr. Yang was invited to offer words of appreciation and share the UPF vision.





Balkan Leadership Conference speakers and organizers, with H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, president of North Macedonia (front center)

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

2023 Balkan Leadership Conference: Balkan Leaders Call for EU Membership

The latest Balkan Leadership Conference took place in the North Macedonian capital, Skopje, on October 14, 2023, with the theme “Western Balkans Integration into the European Union: Perspectives and Challenges.” This was the third in a series of conferences jointly held by UPF and the Podgorica Club, an organization founded in 2019 by former heads of state and government of Southeast Europe, to discuss the war in Ukraine and its impact on peace and security in the Western Balkans.

In response to the heightening conflict between East and West, the European Union has initiated a new dynamic for Western Balkans integration. However, the enlargement process has stalled. Balkan leaders have been expecting bolder steps from Europe, while there is a decline of euro-enthusiasm among Balkan populations.

The Skopje conference was attended by the current president of North Macedonia and ten former heads of state and government from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovakia. The president of the National Assembly and the minister of defense of North Macedonia also attended the event, as well as youth leaders from the six Western Balkan nations.



Session One panelists

Lebanese Clergy Focus on Interreligious Harmony

On September 16, 2023, “Interreligious Harmony as a Foundation for Peace in the Nation” was the theme for this IAPD Lebanon gathering in Beirut. Religious leaders, Muslim and Christian, shared their thoughts, referencing the scriptures of the different traditions. Other UPF Lebanon programs included a December meeting for parliamentarians, a Youth Leaders meeting, and humanitarian aid programs.



Lebanese religious leaders meeting in Saidia in June



School project completed in Antakya, Turkiye



Early aid reaches Turkey (February)

Responding to Disasters Across the Region

The Middle East was struck by several natural disasters in 2023. UPF Middle East worked with partners to provide badly needed aid to Turkiye, Syria, Libya and Morocco. Our partners included WFP and ANWAR in Morocco; the Red Cross/ Crescent in Libya; Association Sans Menottes in Northern Syria; IRFF and FFWPU.

Europe-Brazil Dialogue Fosters Cooperation in Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy

UPF-Austria, in cooperation with the Brazilian Embassy in Vienna and several other partners, organized a conference on “Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, Shared Values – Europe-Brazil Dialogue” on November 8, 2023. The conference was held at the Vienna International Center (UN-Vienna), in connection with a two-day event by the International Business Network that focused on cooperation between Brazil and European countries.

Participating organizations included Brazglobal, Abrasa-Casa do Brasil Austria, the UN Correspondents Association Vienna, the Coalition of Faith-based Organizations, and the Women’s Federation for World Peace. Among the speakers was H.E. Nelson Antonio Tabajara de Oliveira, the Brazilian Ambassador to Austria.



Follow-up meeting with UPF-UK Young Achiever

UPF-UK Young Achievers Awards

The 12th session of the UPF-UK Young Achievers’ Award was held on July 11, 2023, in the Houses of Parliament. This annual event recognizes young people who have shown excellence in the service of others. Imagine being in a room surrounded by 23 young people, each telling their story of how they have helped others and contributed to society. Witnessing the great quality of these Young Achievers gives one hope for our world to have peace and understanding. After the awards ceremony in July, the Young Achievers were invited to the UPF-UK headquarters on September 9, 2023, for a follow-up meeting.

Conference in Vienna, Austria on “Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, Shared Values – Europe-Brazil Dialogue”





REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: JAPAN

National Salvation Tokyo Rally

On November 19, 2023, the “National Salvation Tokyo Rally” was held at a venue in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo, and approximately 400 people, including Ambassadors for Peace living in Tokyo, participated. Masayoshi Kajikuri, Chairman of UPF-Japan, gave a lecture on the theme of “Japan’s course and the Ambassadors for Peace movement.” After surveying the current domestic and international situation, he outlined Japan’s current position and suggested the path Japan should take. He therefore proposed how to develop the Peace Ambassador Movement and called on participants to join the movement.



Masayoshi Kajikuri, Chair, UPF-Japan

Peace Road in Ehime



Peace Road in Ehime

In July of 2023, youth and young adults rode bicycles throughout Ehime Prefecture over a period of three days for a “Peace Road” event.

This event supports the connection of the Houyo Strait Route and the Shikoku Shinkansen. Kyushu and Shikoku are the only mainland regions in Japan that are not connected by land, and the Houyo Strait Route is a proposal for a bridge or tunnel expressway that will connect the islands of Shikoku and Kyushu.



聯合國世界跨宗教和諧週研討會

主辦單位：聯合國 NGO 全球和平與和諧週台灣總會、跨宗教和平與發展協會 APO
協辦單位：世界和平發展學會、世界和平統一家庭聯合會、中華民國—貴州總會

地點：臺北國際會議中心中環大樓
日期：2023.02.08



IAPD-Japan 2023 Activity Report

On February 8, 2023, UPF Taiwan and IAPAD-Japan co-hosted a seminar commemorating the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week. A total of 162 people participated, including 110 people at the Weixin Shengjiao World Peace Training Center in Taiwan, and 52 people online, including 10 IAPD-Japan executives.

Four sessions were held on the theme of “History of religious persecution and conflict, and opportunities for interreligious reconciliation and development.” After the host’s opening remarks from Mr. Tang Yenpo, UPF Taiwan Director and President of China University of Science and Technology, Session 1 was titled “Difficult History and Lessons Experienced by Buddhism” and a presentation was given by Anwu Lin, former Professor of the Institute of Religion and Humanities, Ciji University. Session 2 was titled “The History of Persecution Experienced by Taoism and How to Overcome It.” and a presentation was given by Li Feng Chu, Professor of the Department of Religion at the National Political Science University. Session 3 was titled “The History of Persecution of Christians in Japan and Consideration of Today’s Unification Movement,” and a presentation was given by Shinobu Ishimaru, Chairman of the World Religious Union for Peace.

Japan Future Forum 2023:

Let's think together about Japan and our future

Japan Future Forum 2023, an event for young people sponsored by UPF-Japan and others (IAYSP-Japan, Association of Ambassadors for Peace, International Federation for Victory over Communism), was held on November 11, 2023. Approximately 100 people, mainly young people, participated in the forum, which was held under the theme of “Let’s think about Japan and our future together.” Masayoshi Kajikuri, chairman of UPF-Japan gave keynote speech and stressed, “Young people themselves will decide their future.” The event was also streamed live on YouTube.



Japan Future Forum 2023

共に考えよう、日本と私たちの未来。





UPF 18th Anniversary Ceremony

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: KOREA

UPF 18th Anniversary Ceremony

On September 12, 2023, the 18th anniversary ceremony of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) was successfully held with over 100 participants at the Unification Building in Yong-san-gu, Seoul. At the event, Dr. Chang Shik Yang, the International Chairman, announced plans to expand the peace movement in collaboration with various institutions for the future Reunification of North and South Korea.

Metropolitan City Tour & New Ambassador for Peace Appointment

In celebration of the 18th anniversary of the UPF, International Chairman Dr. Chang Shik Yang toured 17 metropolitan cities and held an appointment ceremony for new Ambassadors for Peace(AfP). Through education of about 5,000 opinion leaders in each region, 2,016 new AfPs were appointed, which was reported by 56 media outlets. The newly appointed AfPs expressed their willingness to actively participate in the peace movement.



Establishment of Peace Academy to Strengthen Peace Movement Among Opinion Leaders

In line with the will of the founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, that “righteous people must be found through peace movement education,” an 8-week Peace Academy was established for continuous education of opinion leaders. The Peace Academy, which was held in 14 regions, provided education on the direction Korean society should take, focusing on three agendas: unification, peace, and environment. About 800 people completed the program.



Establishment of Peace Academy

Metropolitan City Tour & New Ambassador for Peace Appointment



2023 Peace Road Unification Rally

The 2023 Peace Road Unification Rally celebrated its 10th anniversary with commemorative events in each region across the country, and also carried out a transverse crossing of the DMZ border area. Through this event, the unification consensus towards a unified Korea was disseminated to the citizens of the Republic of Korea, securing nationwide support for unification.



70th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement

70th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement

On July 19, 2023, the UPF and the National Union for North-South Unification Movement held the ‘2023 Peace Road Unification Rally & 70th Anniversary of the Armistice Agreement’ at the War Memorial in Yongsan, Seoul. The event aimed to remember the sacrifices of the Korean War veterans and UN forces, and to pray for peace on the Korean Peninsula and world peace.

Korea Peace Forum for a Unified Korea and World Peace

The Korea Peace Forum was held monthly online and offline, inviting experts from various fields to discuss current issues, form a consensus on a unified Korea and world peace, and suggest future directions, contributing to the expansion of the peace movement.



Korea Peace Forum for a Unified Korea and World Peace



Peace Road Year-End Forum

Peace Road Year-End Forum

The ‘2023 Peace Road Year-End Forum’ was held on November 22, 2023, at The Plaza Hotel in Seoul. On this day, Dr. Chang Shik Yang, the International Chairman, took office as the 8th chairman of the World Peace Road Foundation, emphasized the importance of Peace Road through special lectures, and proposed a vision for a unified Korea.

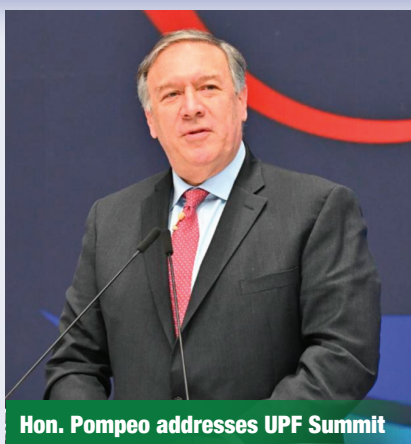
National Sansuwon Patriotic Association Activities

The Sansuwon Patriotic Associations organized in each city and county nationwide are conducting environmental peace movements every month to resolve the environmental crisis emphasized by Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, informing citizens nationwide about the importance of the environment, and expanding so that many citizens can participate.



2023 Peace Road Unification Rally





REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: NORTH AMERICA

Universal Peace Federation North America is moving rapidly in 2024 to expand the foundation of Peace established through the World Summits of UPF. Congressman Dan and Dr. Samia Burton went to Cambodia and together with UPF delegations from every continent met PM Hun Sen. This was a huge support of heads of State and key American leaders to support PM Hun Sen and PM Hun Manet. PM Hun Sen sent his personal Foreign Relations representative the Hon. Yara Suos to meet Congressman Burton and Dr. Jenkins in New York. When in Korea we met the head of NIS, the Foreign Minister and key members of the National Assembly. Our delegation featured Admiral Harry Harris, Commander of the Pacific Command and U.S. Amb. to Korea (2018–2021). General Sharp, Commander of the UN Command (UNC), Combined Forces Korea (CFK) and he USFK (US Forces Korea). Speaker Newt Gingrich (50th speaker of the House, Amb. Callista Gingrich (U.S. Amb. to the Holy See), Secretary Mike Pompeo (U.S. Sec. of State) and many other key figures, such as Religious Leaders like Rev. Jonathan Falwell and Pastor Paula White.

Every summer, we mobilize our entire UPF foundation in the U.S. to create a Peace Road program. The overarching theme of Peace Road is the always the construction of the Peace Tunnel under the Bering Sea between Alaska and the far eastern shore of Russia. In 2023, we did many events to commemorate the sacrifice of the 16 combatant nations in the Korean War.

An ongoing project for UPF is the Middle East Peace Initiative. We have sponsored numerous online meetings to encour-

age common ground between the opposing sides in Israel and the Middle East including ISCP and IAPP forums for Prime Ministers and Congressmen.

All Associations are focused on regular programs to bring about the peaceful Reunification of Korea. The **ISCP** association of heads of State had embraced and received direct support from former U.S. President and Vice President. **IAFLP** Co-Chairs Cindy Pfeiffer and Dr. Samia Burton are building a great foundation to embrace the U.S First Ladies. Our **IAPP** had joint sessions with Parliamentarians from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas and the **IAPD** led by North America Charman Archbishop Stallings and Senior V.P. Tomiko Duggan are completing four years of Interfaith prayer programs for 208 weeks without missing. The **IAED**, the Business Association, in which a Federal Reserve bank Regional President spoke along with fascinating experts on dealing with North Korea.

Under the leadership Dr. Stephan Berg for the **IAAP**, IAAP received international guidance and help from Dr. Thomas Selover as PWWA World President. They have produced excellent programs on preserving and protecting our environment. **IMAP** USA has been a pillar for the global movement thanks to The Washington Times Chairman, Tom McDevitt and Ms. Cheryl Wetzstein and an outstanding team. UPF NA is excited about the



Interreligious Association for Peace and Development

IAPD PEACE Forum

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
2 - 3:00 PM (EDT) * 11-12 Noon (PDT) * 8-9 AM (Hawaii)



**Reconciliation and Commitment to Peace:
 "Destination, Challenges and Hope on the Korean Peninsula"**

Program Speakers:

 Patriarch George A. Stalingis, Jr. Jesuit Temple Archdiocan American Catholic Congregation Chair, IAPD - USA	 Ms. Grace Jo North Korean Defector	 Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D. President AU International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership
 Moderator Mr. Michael Jenkins President, UPP International Chairman, UPP-USA America		 Tomiko Duggan Senior Vice President UPPC - IAPD, USA Coordinator

Here is the Zoom registration link: Password is Iapd
<https://us-upd.zoom.us/j/zoom-us/meeting/register?from=addon&ticket-id=CNFAAHQwvKIG>
 Facebook link: us.upd.org/facebook



Peace Road USA - Embassy military attaches in Washington DC



WW II Veterans – Youngest 99 and Eldest 104 years old

IAACP (Arts and Culture for peace) Excellent programs have been held to show our Founders vision that the Arts and Cultures many times are the best bridge between enemy nations.

Religious Freedom is by far our biggest project. We have been working closely with the International Religious Freedom Summit.

Canada: Veterans Honored at Ambassadors for Peace Awards Banquet in Toronto

An overflow crowd of about 270 people filled the Ojibway Hall in Huron Park Recreation Centre on Remembrance Day, November 11, 2023, for UPF-Ontario’s annual Ambassadors for Peace Awards banquet. Fittingly, this year’s theme was “Honoring Veterans for Peace,” and over 50 veterans were in attendance. They each received a beautiful medal and certificate of appreciation from the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Moonshik Kim, chairman of UPF-Canada, warmly welcomed all. He testified to the deep sense of gratitude felt by UPF founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, to the veterans of the Korean War for saving their lives. He explained their sponsorship of the Little Angels’ tour in 2010, the 60th anniversary of the war, to the 16 nations that answered the United Nations’ call by sending soldiers or medical support to Korea. The Remembrance Ceremony was a moving moment, featuring the Last Post, Silence, Reveille, Lament, and the Act of Remembrance read by Romeo Daley, a Korean War veteran. Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Senator Yeonah Martin sent congratulatory remarks by video. Remarks were given in person, and with real passion, by local MPP Sheref Sabawy, and by DeWitt Lee and Khalilah Megan Campbell, founders of Black Veterans’ Day of Ontario, who together read a moving

proclamation from Mayor Patrick Brown of Brampton.

Dr. Franco Famularo’s excellent keynote address introducing UPF’s key principles. His speech ended with spontaneous applause as he showed a photo of his uncle, a World War II veteran, who after two years in a German concentration camp walked home to southern Italy. He celebrated his 100th birthday on November 9 with Dr. Famularo and his daughter in Calabria, Italy.

At that point two veterans of World War II – Jack Finan, nearly 104, the last living Lancaster bomber pilot, and Ronald Zabrok, 99, also a Korean War veteran – received their medals and certificates to a standing ovation. Two Ambassador for Peace Service Awards were presented. The first to retired Lt. Cdr. Melvin Patrick Cornect, a 35-year Navy veteran; the second to HooJung Jones Kennedy who, with her husband retired Major Donald William Kennedy, founded The Korean War Veterans Advocates of Canada.

The evening culminated in the awarding of the medals and certificates of appreciation to the assembled veterans, in an atmosphere of joy, with many photos.



Canada: Ambassadors for Peace Awards

Veterans honored with medals at Ambassadors for Peace Awards in Toronto





IAPD Peru



IAPD Brazil

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: SOUTH AMERICA

In Celestial South America, the UPF is divided into 3 sub-regions: subregion 1. Brazil; subregion 2: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and subregion 3: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

Interreligious Association for Peace and Development

South America, despite being a continent with a Christian majority (90% of the population) has recently had the political influence of the wave of socialism on most governments. There is still a lot of corruption and political instability that is reflected in the social and volatile instability of the continent. However, the UPF, through the IAPD, has sought to work together with religious leaders from different denominations to bring more spirituality to the continent.

Ambassadors for Peace

The UPF has sought to carry out activities in all its chapters and with all its pillars. There are a significant number of Ambassadors for Peace (close to seven thousand) across the continent. Some of these peace ambassadors have even studied the Divine Principle and the lives of True Parents, and have been greatly impacted by True Parents' vision and achievements. Some EPs have even agreed to participate in the Sacred Blessing Ceremony.



Peace Road

Under the banner of Peace Road, the UPF has carried out also many walks and marches, seeking to involve different sectors of society to spread the culture of peace. Peace Road has sought to involve young students so that peace is also part of their learning. The slogan 'connecting the world through peace' has been promoting with Peace Road.



Peace Road in Brazil

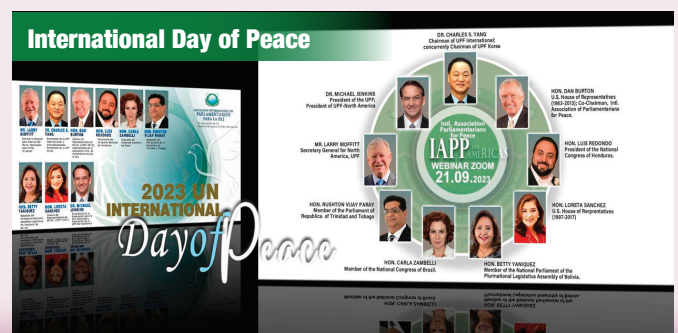
International Holidays

At the same time, the UPF has also sought to support international celebrations established by the UN, such as interreligious harmony week, International Women's Day, International Day of Peace, and others.

The UPF has also sought to work in harmony with the other continents of the Americas, as has occurred this year, when two events were held involving authorities from the 3 Americas, in the International Day of Peace.



Maximo Introvigne in Argentina for Religious Freedom





Universal Principles Seminar in Brazil



Ambassadors for Peace event in the national congress of Paraguay

And, naturally, every opportunity that arises with meetings has been used to appoint new peace ambassadors.

Peace Ambassador education seminars have also been held in several of our chapters. All focusing on the context of finding fair people who can support the national restoration process.



Appointment of Ambassadors for Peace in Chile

Meetings with High Level Delgates

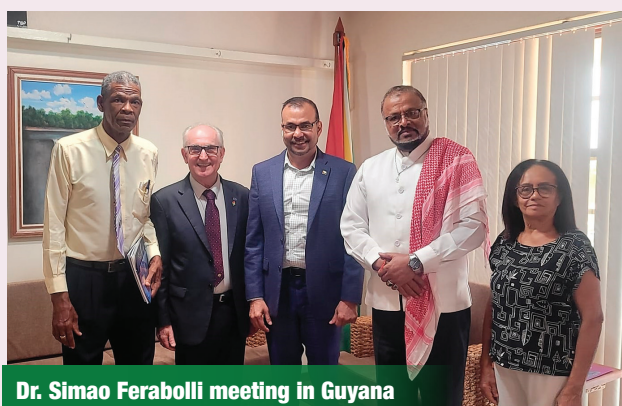
The Chairman of UPF South America, Dr. Ferabolli, Mr. Roel Rotgans and Ambassador for Peace, Mrs. Florence Wangsabe-sari-Jamin, on November 24th 2023, meet the Chairman of the National Assembly of Suriname, Mr. Marinus Bee. Mr. Roel Rotgans opened the floor by expressing his gratitude for the Courtesy Call and explaining the purpose of our desire to meet with the Chairman. Dr. Ferabolli expressed his gratitude for the Courtesy Call and congratulated the Chairman on 48 years of Independence of the Republic of Suriname. He then introduced IAPP to the Chairman.

Dr. Ferabolli, Mr. Rotgans and Mr. and Mrs. Wangsabesari, placed a wreath at the Korean Monument, which was gifted to the Surinamese government by the Korean government to remembrance of the Surinamese soldiers who fought in the Korean War.

UPF South America Chair, Dr. Simao Ferabolli, meets External Affairs Secretary representing the Government of Guyana, Hon. Robert Montgomery Persaud, at his Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chairman of UPF Guyana, Haji Dr. Roshan Khan emphasized the vision of the UPF as we have chapters in 190 countries working to create that culture of peace that the world needs. Present also was the couple of National Leader Rev. Dr. Ronald Mgarrell.



Dr. Simao Ferabolli at the Korean Monument in Suriname



Dr. Simao Ferabolli meeting in Guyana



Peace Road in Peru

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT COUNCIL FOR PEACE



ISCP is an international network of current and former heads of state and government, who, through dialogue and collaboration, explore solutions and offer recommendations to address the world's critical problems, including climate change and environmental issues, conflicts, poverty, war, corruption and family breakdown.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRST LADIES FOR PEACE

UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
WORLD SUMMIT 2020



UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
WORLD SUMMIT 2020



IAFLP, a project of ISCP, affirms and uplifts the unique and essential role of First Ladies and women leaders in contributing to peace and development. IAFLP, in collaboration with the Women's Federation for World Peace, brings together current and former First Ladies, drawing upon their wisdom as women leaders and role models who serve their countries and societies in essential and significant ways.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR PEACE



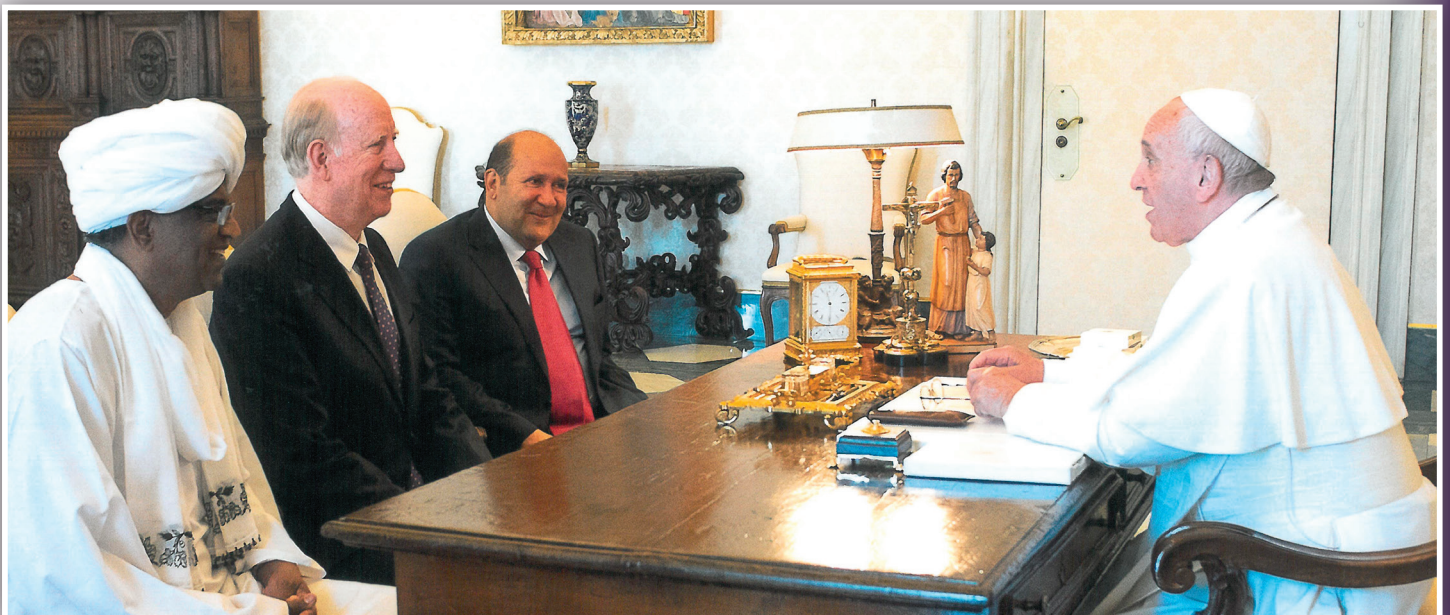
IAPP In IAPP parliamentarians from around the world offer their insight on the value of increased cooperation and collaboration in the search for innovative solutions to some of the critical issues that we face on the local, national, regional and global levels, from climate change to the rise of extremist ideologies to humanitarian disasters and conflict.



INTERRELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT



IAPD, due to their moral authority and emphasis on human rights based on the principle that we are one family created by God, religious leaders can help rebuild divided societies and assist in humanitarian services for the alleviation of hunger, disease and trauma due to natural and man-made disasters.



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE



IMAP is an association of media professionals. The IMAP is a global network of media who work together for the achievement of a world of lasting and sustainable peace.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



IAED Business leaders have the opportunity and responsibility to work in collaboration with other sectors of society to make the world a better place, addressing its most significant challenges, and promoting world peace, long-term mutual prosperity and truly sustainable development. IAED believes we are all truly connected and that a prosperous, peaceful world must be based upon a moral core of universal values.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMICIANS FOR PEACE



IAAP represents a new global interdisciplinary academic initiative aimed at contributing to the realization of a world of lasting peace by building a professional network for academicians to foster a world of peace based on the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND CULTURE FOR PEACE



IAACP is a global network of leaders in fields related to the arts and culture, including performing, literary, and fine arts, as well as music, film and dance. Inspired by UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who describes art and culture as more powerful than politics in their ability to bring about societal change, IAACP hosts programs which encourage the role and contribution of art and culture in society.



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