This issue of UPF Today offers highlights from 2015, a year that saw great achievements by UPF Regions and National Chapters throughout the world. The World Summit 2015 was the flagship program of UPF in 2015. Of particular interest was a program featuring our Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Moon, at the United Nations in Vienna.

A wide variety of programs were held in support of the work of the United Nations. The celebration of Africa Day, as a joint effort of UPF with the African Union's Mission to the United Nations, draws wide support.

UPF's longstanding efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, through the Middle East Peace Initiative, has won wide respect around the world and, on this foundation, UPF engaged in high-level discussions about the two-state solution in Israel and Palestine.

The UN International Day of Peace was honored by UPF programs in many nations, and the Religious Youth Service continues to inspire young people from around the world. The volume and quality of work that is being carried out by UPF is growing and building momentum, at a time when our world is being shaken by a variety of threats to peace and human development.

We hope you gain inspiration from the various reports contained in the pages that follow. Please also visit our website at www.upf.org. Thank you for your interest in and support for the work of UPF. Peace.

### Table of Contents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Sunhak Peace Prize is Awarded at UPF Summit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Dr. William Selig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheon Honors Legacy of Dr. Sun Myung Moon</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By UPF-International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Summit 2015 Addresses Peace, Security and Human Development</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Dr. William Selig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vienna Forum Addresses Korean Peninsula Tensions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Mr. Jacques Marion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Leadership Conference Focuses on the Balkans</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Mr. Jacques Marion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transforming the Society, Nation &amp; World</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Mrs. Eugenia Kagawa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150,000 Receive Interfaith Peace Blessing</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Rev. Julius Malicdem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Offices: Activity Highlights</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By UPF-International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By UPF-International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toward a Two-State Solution</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Mr. Hod Ben Zvi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Role of Religion in Peacebuilding</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Dr. William Selig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Security Initiatives Around the Globe</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By UPF-International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RYS: Youth Leadership Program</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Mrs. Tomiko Duggan and Mrs. Susan Fefferman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPF Gives Global Support to UN Days</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By UPF-International and Dr. William Selig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Japanese Tea Ceremony &amp; the Way of Promoting Peace &amp; Harmony</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Mrs. Tomiko Duggan and Mrs. Amy Yang Miyamoto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Copyright © 2016, Universal Peace Federation All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part prohibited except by written permission. Periodicals postage is paid at Tarrytown, New York, and additional mailing offices.

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

Universal Peace Federation
200 White Plains Road, Floor 1
Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA
info@upf.org • www.upf.org

COVER: (Main photo l. to r.) Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, H.E. Anote Tong, Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta and Dr. Ill-Shik Hong; (Bottom photos l. to r.) American Leadership Conference in Washington, DC; Peace Diplomats Forum in Tokyo, Japan; Middle East Forum in Jerusalem, Israel
Seoul, Korea—The first Sunhak Peace Prize was awarded to Kiribati President Anote Tong and fisheries scientist Dr. M. Vijay Gupta on August 28, 2015.

More than one thousand dignitaries, including current and former presidents, vice presidents, and other leaders of parliament, academia, business, media and religion from Korea and around the world attended the Inaugural Sunhak Peace Prize Ceremony, which was held in the Grand InterContinental Hotel Seoul Parnas.

Founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Sunhak Peace Prize honors the legacy of her husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Dr. Moon formally proposed the Sunhak Peace Prize on February 20, 2013. The winners, who were announced at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on June 8, 2015, will share the $1 million international peace prize.

According to the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee press release: “The 2015 Prize celebrates and seeks to promote the link between sustainable development practices and global peace and justice. In the 20th century, peace was threatened by world wars and regional conflicts. The threats to peace and human security in this century prominently include not only territorial disputes and the rise of extremism but also climate change and its impact on food security and clean water for the world’s most vulnerable citizens.”

The emcees for the award ceremony were Mr. Shin Young-il, Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), and Ms. Jung Saemi, Arirang TV, Korea.

Dr. Il-Shik Hong, former president of Korea University and current chair of the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee, welcomed the laureates and the participants of the World Summit. Congratulatory remarks were given by Hon. Chung Ui-hwa, speaker of the National Assembly of Korea, and Hon. Dr. Jusuf Kalla, the vice president of Indonesia.

The laureates received the Sunhak Peace Prize medal from Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and a plaque from Committee Chairman Il-Shik Hong.

President Tong praised the works of Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon: “If the whole world were to embrace their visions … promoting reconciliation, coexistence and cooperation, the world would certainly be a better and a more peaceful world.”

In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Gupta thanked the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee for recognizing “the importance of food security, environmental integrity and overall socioeconomic development as essential prerequisites for a peaceful society.”

To the delight of the audience, the ceremony ended with a performance by the famous dance troupe the Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet, and Ms. Sumi Cho, a world-class soprano.

For more information about the Sunhak Peace Prize, go to http://Sunhakprize.com/eng/.

—Written by Dr. William Selig, Deputy Director, UPF Office of Peace and Security Affairs-Washington, DC
Seoul, Korea—Sunhak Peace Prize Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and UPF World Chair Dr. Sun Jin Moon hosted a luncheon in honor of the first Peace Prize laureates.

The Sunhak Peace Prize Ceremony Commemorative Luncheon was held on August 28, 2015, following the inaugural award ceremony. Dr. Thomas Walsh, president of UPF, served as the emcee for the luncheon.

The festivities began with a cake cutting followed by an invocation given by Rev. Hjortur Johannson of the Free Lutheran Church in Iceland, and a toast by Hon. Balmiki Prasad Singh, former governor of the Indian state of Sikkim.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Sun Jin Moon, president, FFWPU International; chair, UPF International; and chair, Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation. On behalf of her mother, Dr. Moon extended her appreciation to the laureates. “The key to peace is to follow the principle of living for the sake of others,” she said. She then encouraged all the attendees to work for world peace.

Ambassador Tae Ik Chung, former South Korean chief of foreign affairs and national security, and president of the Korean Council of Foreign Relations, congratulated the recipients. Hon. Dan Burton, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, said, “Together you focus the attention of the world on extremely difficult problems facing the earth… I especially want to express the appreciation of all of us to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, for initiating this award to encourage efforts to solve the problems that afflict the people of this world.”

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., former speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives and chair of the International Committee of Asian Political Parties, called the laureates “heroes of Asia.” He said, “The launching of the Peace Prize is a culmination of the legacy and the work of an outstanding Asian and internationalist, our good friend Reverend Moon, who devoted all his life to peace, conflict resolution and mobilizing people from all over the world for peace, democracy and human rights.”
The 3rd World Summit on “Peace, Security and Human Development” convened on August 27 to 31, 2015, in Seoul, Korea. The World Summit was co-sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee, established to award individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions toward a sustainable and lasting peace based on the founders’ peace ideology—“living for the sake of others.”

The conference, spanning over eight sessions, touched on a number of issues that are of critical importance in relation to the overall theme: “Peace, Security and Human Development.” The presentations and discussions brought out the participants’ reflections based on their own experience in their nation and region, along with possible action steps.

Sessions I and IV: Sunhak Peace Prize Ceremony and Remarks by the Laureates

The theme of the Sunhak Peace Prize focused on climate change and food security. While the challenges to peace in the 20th century were wars and conflicts between regions, the multiple problems that threaten peace in the 21st century are globally linked, such as climate change, the food crisis, resource depletion, water scarcity, and population growth. The inaugural prize was presented to H.E. Anote Tong, president of the Republic of Kiribati, an island nation in the central Pacific Ocean, who said: “If the whole world were to embrace the vision [of the founders] promoting reconciliation, coexistence and cooperation, the world would certainly be a better and a more peaceful world.” The second recipient was Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta, an Indian biologist and aquaculturist, who thanked the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee for recognizing
“the importance of food security, environmental integrity and overall socioeconomic development as essential prerequisites for a peaceful society.”

Plenary Sessions II and III: Keynote addresses: Perspectives on Peace and Human Development

The UPF perspective on peace and human development, as explained by the moderator, Mr. Taj Hamad, is based on universal spiritual and moral values and their role in resolving and reconciling conflict. It has been UPF’s commitment to promote constructive dialogue with all the players, including Israel and the Arab states through the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI), Russia and Ukraine through the Europe-Eurasia dialogue meetings, North and South Korea through the North East Asia Peace Initiative (NEAPI), and India and Pakistan through the South Asia Peace Initiative (SAPI).

Former U.S. congressman Dan Burton and Christopher Hill, former U.S. ambassador to Korea emphasized that in this era, “global problems require global solutions.” The forces of globalization have transformed our world. The changes are economic, technological, cultural, political and environmental. Regional threats, whether from developed or developing countries, can impact the entire world. Radical Islam, environmental pollution, and unchecked immigration have repercussions and consequences that can affect the entire world.

Leonid Kravchuk, the former president of Ukraine spoke about the relations between Russia and Ukraine which have deteriorated in the past two years. He feels the door still remains open for constructive dialogue and bridge building with the assistance of international peacekeepers. “The formation of a culture of peace,” he said, “is impossible without the joint efforts of all components of human society: governmental and international organizations, public and educational institutions, religious and interreligious institutions, as well as leaders in all spheres of human activity.”

Mr. Kravchuk said there are many obstacles to social development—for example, unemployment, organized crime, political instability, unequal land distribution, and terrorism—what binds humankind together is the family, the basic building block of any society.

H.E. Anote Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati

It has been twelve years [since my early campaigns for climate change], and in these last few years, I truly believe that we, as a global community, have reached some level of consensus on it—and it is indeed encouraging to note the growing momentum in the level of global acknowledgement of the issue of climate change. At this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership and hard work of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, whose efforts have placed climate change at the top of the global agenda.”
The Hon. Jose De Venecia, Jr., former Speaker of the House (Philippines) spoke about the creation of an Interreligious Council at the United Nations. This proposal was made by the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon in 2000 and formally introduced to the U.N. General Assembly in 2004 by the Philippines Mission to the United Nations.

Speaker De Venecia said that the world’s religious leaders have a role to play in world affairs, for example: Sunni-Shia relations, ISIS-ISIL in Syria and Iraq, and the Six-Party Talks for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Where conventional approaches have not brought resolution, interreligious and inter-belief dialogue have the power to transcend nationalism and find common ground toward peacebuilding and reconciliation. “In the last analysis, except for diversity in the color of our skin, we all belong to one human family under God.”

Former U.S. Congressman John Doolittle expressed his agreement with the guiding principles of UPF and the importance of family. The congressman said, “Let us each in our own sphere of efforts continue to do all that we can to maintain a safe, prosperous society.”

According to Alwi Shihab, the Indonesian President’s special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the ideology of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) follows an extremist interpretation of Islam. It promotes religious violence and follows the radical ideology of al-Qaeda and other jihadist groups. “This worldview goes against the core teachings of Islam, which promote peace, tranquility and brotherhood.” He said the global Muslim community must take a proactive stance to promote the true teachings of the religion of Islam.

Plenary Session V: Challenges Facing Europe and the Middle East

Issues highlighted include: (1) The humanitarian crisis caused by the asylum-seekers and the flow of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea; (2) The need to institute a new approach for 21st century economics, particularly in the nations of Southeast Europe and the Western Balkans; and (3) Tension in the European Union over high-profile issues, such as the Ukraine crisis, the debt emergency in Greece, and a unified approach to migration and integration.

The global population has crossed the 7 billion mark, and it is scheduled to cross the 9 billion mark by 2050. We can understand the enormity of this situation with the fact that we [would] need to build a new city of a population of 1 million every five days in developing countries [between now and 2050]. It has been estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that to meet world demand for food in 2050, we [would] need to increase food production by 60% globally, and by 90 to 100% in developing countries.”
response toward the immigrants. The challenges in the Middle East centered on two areas: (1) The war in Syria between the government of President Bashar al-Assad and jihadist militant groups; and (2) the Israeli-Arab conflict.

**Plenary Session VI: Women, the Family and Peace**

Women’s role in bringing peace was discussed by prominent women leaders. Professor Yeon Ah Choi, president of the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), said: “Participation by women is needed in all aspects of society, from diplomacy and politics to the economy and legal system reform. ... Women need to be active in education and culture, in sports and the arts, not to mention the diverse activities of NGOs.” She emphasized the need to encourage and foster the practice of living for the sake of others.

Women are taking major roles and supporting the development of democracy around the world. Currently there are 22 female world leaders, including of Germany, South Korea and Argentina. Recent female Nobel Peace Prize winners include Malala Yousafzai (Pakistan, 2014) and the three 2011 laureates: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman.

Despite signs of progress in gender equality, there is still a gap between women and men in terms of job opportunities and quality of employment. In many societies, women take on the responsibility to care for the elderly, and, as the life expectancy of women is longer than that of men, women often are left alone, poor and without means of support.

Women around the world share common perspectives that emanate from their experiences as women. Women share sensitivity to injustices and suffering stemming from the history of injustice toward them as women. Women have an inherent nature that predisposes them to favor peaceful solutions and peaceful actions. A gender perspective represents a new approach to peace—a “feminized concept of peace.”

**Plenary Session VII: Asia Pacific**

Issues highlighted include: (1) The disparity between the developed and the developing countries. For example, in the human development index, Australia ranks high while Nepal and Pakistan rank at the bottom. Similarly, with regard to peacefulness, there is a polarization: for example, Pakistan and Afghanistan are regarded as the least peaceful countries, while Japan, Australia and New Zealand are regarded as the most peaceful countries; (2) Problems concerning global warming, climate change, refugees, contagious disease, environment sustainability, and world terrorism; (3) Globalization is shifting world power from the Atlantic toward the Pacific. Technological and cultural revolutions are reshaping our world; (4) The path to end poverty and establish lasting peace requires good governance, education, and investment in human capital, which means encouraging virtue and respect, with particular focus on protecting the rights of women and children.

**Plenary Session VIII: Religious Voices for Peace and Development**

Religious and faith-based organizations and NGOs have an important role to play in peacemaking and resolving conflict. The three Abrahamic faiths, along with the Indian and East Asian religions, promote tolerance, coexistence, and peacemaking. Past examples of mediation by religious leaders include: the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, Pope John Paul II’s interventions in Lebanon, Poland and Haiti; Buddhist leaders in Cambodia; and the churches and synagogues that mobilized a generation ago over the situations in Biafra and Darfur. Track II diplomacy, which emphasizes “soft power” solutions, offers a viable complement to the use of power (political, economic, military) to sustain lasting peace.

While the unplanned and uncontrolled influx of refugees entering Europe is causing tremendous social, economic and political problems, religious dialogue also is impacted. The mix

> I cannot think of a more appropriate country to discuss peace than Korea, a country that has known the ravages of war and still feels the terrible consequences of unfinished business,” he said, referring to the continued state of war that officially exists. Peace is threatened all across the world, including the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. “Peace is not so simple,” he said. “It’s complex; it requires dialogue, the building of structures, and political compromises.” The diplomatic process is always the preferred option, but “we also need to have strength. We should not negotiate out of fear.” The ambassador defined strength not only in military terms but on “the bedrock of values,” meaning the principles that give structure and purpose to a nation.
of faiths representing the different backgrounds, cultures and historical contexts is creating challenges but also opportunities for greater awareness and tolerance.

**Recommendations**

The World Summit concluded with the following recommendations:

1. Support and promote the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the post-Millennium Development Goal period, 2015–2030,
2. Encourage technologies for renewable energy to reduce dependence upon coal and gas and the need to raise public awareness about climate change and the food crisis,
3. Strengthen the United Nations with the view to make it a more effective instrument of peace,
4. Augment the spiritual resources of the people who then can influence their leaders to show moral leadership and make meaningful decisions based on the UPF peace ideology – “living for the sake of others.”

Following the World Summit, the participants attended a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the passing of Dr. Sun Myung Moon. The participants joined more than 20,000 people, from Korea and around the world. Another 10,000 watched the ceremony at nearby facilities. The ceremony was broadcast live around the world and viewed by members of the Unification Movement and friends around the world.

— Written by Dr. William Selig, Deputy Director, UPF Office of Peace and Security Affairs-Washington, DC

**We all want peace and freedom, but the world is growing smaller and smaller and the dangers to our freedoms are becoming greater and greater every day. Today regional threats are no longer regional—they’re global and our freedoms everywhere are at risk. Nuclear weapons and global delivery systems are rapidly being developed in many places; this threatens us all. In addition, radical groups are developing new guerilla tactics that put every city, every state and every country in jeopardy... these radical groups know that we want peace, however they don’t know if we are willing to do whatever is necessary to protect our freedoms.”**

**Where conventional approaches have not brought resolution, interreligious and inter-belief dialogue have the power to transcend nationalism and find common ground toward peacebuilding and reconciliation.”**
Vienna, Austria – Concluding a three-day celebration of 50 years of the Unification Movement in Europe, a forum at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna, Austria, addressed the theme “The UN at 70: Toward a Resolution of Tensions on the Korean Peninsula.”

The May 11 meeting was co-sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), the Academic Council of the UN System (ACUNS) Vienna, the Segye Times, and Sun Moon University.

The event commemorated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the 70 years since Korean independence as well as the 60th anniversary of the State Treaty whereby Austria was granted independence from Allied Powers after a ten-year occupation following World War II.

The conference aimed at addressing issues related to the future of the United Nations and its impact on peace in Northeast Asia. Dr. Hak Ja Hak Moon, co-founder of UPF and WFWP, offered the keynote address. Then, a panel of high-level experts from both Europe and Korea considered what enhanced role the United Nations could play in Northeast Asia, raising in particular the prospects of establishing a fifth UN office on the Korean Peninsula. Expressing the beauty of the Korean culture, the Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet graced the program with a moving cultural performance.

The event was introduced by Mr. Peter Haider, president of UPF-Austria. Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, greeted the audience on behalf of the United Nations.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, president of UPF International, then gave a broad review of significant peacemaking efforts in Europe, from the Vienna Treaty following the Napoleonic Wars to the League of Nations following World War I, to the post-World War II creation of the United Nations – whose first major challenge was the Korean War that began in 1950. He went on to explain the central role that the UN plays in the UPF founders’ vision for world peace. Reviewing various peace initiatives launched by the late Dr. Sun Myung Moon, he underlined his proposal, in August 2000, to set up an interreligious council at the United Nations, as he was foreseeing the crucial role that religions would play in conflicts in the 21st century.
Dr. Moon then gave the keynote address. Speaking of the challenges faced by the UN to bring 193 nations into harmony, she stated that only a God-centered perspective could help achieve that goal. “A movement to acknowledge God has to take place at the UN,” she said, adding that only God’s parental love could unite all mankind. “I want everyone to become children of God,” she concluded, saying that the issue at stake was not only the tensions on the Korean Peninsula, but the conflicts that affect the whole world.

The session concluded with international songs by the Little Angels, a children’s troupe well known for representing the beauty of Korean culture around the world in the past 50 years, and for promoting peace through the arts.

Other speakers included: Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, president of WFWP in Europe; Dr. Walther Lichem, former head of the Department of International Organizations at the Austrian Foreign Ministry; Dr. Willem Van Eekelen, former minister of defense of the Netherlands; Prof. Park Heung-Soon, dean of the Graduate School at Sun Moon University in Korea and a scholar on United Nations issues; and Mr. Humphrey Hawksley, BBC world affairs correspondent and founder and former head of BBC’s Asia Bureau in Beijing.

—Written by Mr. Jacques Marion, secretary general, UPF-Europe

European Leadership Conference FOCUSES ON THE BALKANS

Tirana, Albania—UPF held a European Leadership Conference under the theme “Mutual Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, Security and Human Development in the Balkans.”

The event, co-hosted by the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) in Europe, also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the visit to Tirana of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, the founders of UPF and WFWP. The purpose of their 2005 visit was to inaugurate the Albanian chapter of UPF, and they also launched the Ambassadors for Peace movement and the UPF Balkans Peace Initiative.

About 130 participants attended the event, which took place on November 21 and 22, 2015, in the Tirana International Hotel. Speakers came from 12 nations, including seven Balkan countries: Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Greece.

Speakers included: Professor Yeon Ah Moon, the president of WFWP International; H.E. Alfred Moisiu, former president of Albania; H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu, former president of Kosovo; and Dr. Walter Schwimmer, former secretary general of the Council of Europe.

Sessions dealt with perspectives on peace, security and human development in the Balkans; interreligious dialogue, peace education and sustainable development; women’s leadership; and youth and education for tomorrow’s Balkans.
Approximately 150 leaders from around the world gathered in Seoul, Korea, from February 28 to March 4, 2015, to discuss multidimensional solutions to present-day crises and global conflicts at a UPF International Leadership Conference entitled “Beyond the Challenges of Our Time: Transforming the Society, Nation and World.” The guests were welcomed at the Opening Banquet with an Invocation by Rev. Dr. Johannes Mazibuko of the Alliance Church of Swaziland. This was followed by Opening Remarks by Dr. Byung Ho Son, chairman of UPF-Korea, who spoke on the tense situation between North and South Korea and UPF’s efforts to support the reunification of the Korean Peninsula, and Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, president, UPF International, who informed participants of UPF’s objectives in holding the conference.

Hon. Yoshinori Ohno, Japan’s former minister of defense, deliberated on the growing instances of violence in Syria, Iraq and throughout the world, and affirmed his commitment to oppose war and conflict. Mr. Adama Doumbia represented Mrs. Kathy Rigney, regional chair of UPF-Africa, in reporting on UPF-Nigeria’s successful partnering with government agencies in their work for unification and peace in Nigeria and in offering technical assistance on marriage and family.

In the Opening Plenary, UPF Chairman Charles Yang introduced the background of UPF and its founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Dr. Vladimir Petrovskiy, senior adviser to UPF-Russia, reflected on the new chapter of history that we are facing, and UPF’s ability to build a new, common vision to promote peace and family for nation-building.

Hon. Dr. Myrna Romarate, national president of the Provincial Board Member League of the Philippines, reflected on the fact that, hidden in deep recesses of the human mind, attachment to power, prestige, and material possessions create divisions. Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, former Cabinet minister of Nepal, called upon governments, civil society and the private sector to work together to build peace by respecting human rights, economic laws and human development, and family values.
150,000 RECEIVE INTERFAITH PEACE BLESSING

Marikina City, Philippines - On Feb. 1, 2015, the biggest-ever Interfaith Peace Blessing in the Philippines was held at the Marikina Sports Complex in Marikina City. An estimated 150,000 participated. “Today is a glorious day. From this moment forward you stand in a new relationship with God and with one another,” said Dr. Sun Jin Moon, who delivered the Blessing Address on behalf of her parents, UPF Founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Congratulatory messages were given by former Prime Minister of Nepal, His Excellency Madhav K. Nepal; former Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, Honorable Jose De Venecia, Jr.; and American evangelist Bishop Jesse Edwards.

To conclude the heartfelt ceremony, Dr. Sun Jin Moon and her husband, Mr. In Sup Park, Dr. and Mrs. Chung Sik Yong and the representative religious leaders all held candles, while a special prayer was offered by Bishop Edwards. –Written by Rev. Julius Malicdem

As a highlight of the conference, UPF Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon gave the Keynote Speech, delivered by her daughter, Dr. Sun Jin Moon. Most importantly, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon spoke about the great awakening that is taking place in the world, despite the unstable and tragic events that are unfolding daily, and she assured the audience that despite these problems, the guiding hand of God is at work to weave together a great civilization for one universal family.

The subsequent sessions presented an overview of the principles of Dr. Sun Myung Moon, followed by reflections of selected commentators. Moderated by Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, UPF director of public affairs in Washington, D.C., the second session illuminated the “Founders’ Vision: Principles of Peace.” Mr. Jacques Marion, president of UPF-France, summarized the UPF founders’ spiritual and moral vision, based on the fundamental core values, principles and teachings of the Unification philosophy.

Other speakers included: Dr. Michael Balcomb, president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in the United States; Professor Masahisa Hayashi, professor emeritus of Waseda University in Japan; and Mr. Naokimi Ushiroda, president of CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles) in the United States.

A session on “Overcoming the Challenges Facing the Family,” was moderated by Mrs. Eugenia Kagawa of the Executive Office of UPF. Speakers include: Mr. Ricardo de Sena, president of UPF in the United States; Mr. Joseph Champagne, former mayor of Toms River in New Jersey, U.S.A.; and Mr. Kazu Matsui, former chairman of the Educational Board in Saitama Prefecture, Japan.

“Overcoming the Challenges Facing Religions and Governments” was the theme of a session moderated by Dr. Tageldin Hamad, secretary general of UPF International. In his presentation, Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, president of UPF International, discussed the problems facing governments and religions today, and the possible solutions and action steps that can be taken. Other speakers included: Hon. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, former president of the Parliament in Luxembourg; Mr. Quan Yi Zhang, professor at Zhejiang Wanli University in China; Mr. Jaap Willem de Zwaan, professor at Erasmus University in the Netherlands; Rev. Shuei Kobayashi, chief priest of the Chuzenji Buddhist Temple in Japan; and Dr. Lek Thaveetersaksul, vice chair of UPF-Asia.

There were two breakout sessions in which participants divided into six groups to discuss the significance of the family and the ways in which to address and overcome contemporary threats and challenges to the family as well as the challenges facing both religions and governments, and the ways in which to overcome those challenges to the stability of the nation and the integrity of religion. Following that, rapporteurs from each group reported on the major points made in the discussion.

A session on “One Family under God: The Blessing Vision,” was moderated by Mr. Tuo Huan Chen, secretary general of UPF-Chinese Region. The content of this session centered on the personal stories of what it is like to have an intercultural and international marriage and family, and the challenges and joys that come with it. The speakers were Mrs. Eugenia Kagawa, Dr. Tageldin Hamad, and Mr. Ricardo de Sena, president of UPF-U.S.A.

–Written by Mrs. Eugenia Kagawa, Executive Office, UPF International
2015 was a very busy year for our Regional Offices, Ambassadors for Peace, members, and friends. In accordance with the UPF mission, each region carried out numerous events and activities primarily in the following six areas: Interfaith Peacebuilding, Peace and Security, UN Relations, Marriage and Family, Peace Education and Human Development, and Youth and Service. (For a full list of events visit upf.org).

AFRICA

Marriage and Family — UPF-Ethiopia leaders and Ambassadors for Peace were invited to take part in the 7th Joint International Conference on Women’s Role in the Sustainable Development of Africa which took place on November 27, 2015, in the new Headquarters building of the African Union in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa. The conference was organized jointly by the International Leadership Institute and the University of Greenwich (United Kingdom).

Service Programs — UPF-Ethiopia visited the Muday Charity Association for needy women and children. Since the UPF visit of November 1, 2015 came within the framework of Service for Peace, Youth Ambassadors for Peace and guests from different religious backgrounds were invited to be part of this activity which included tutoring and teaching martial arts.

Peace Conference — UPF-Ghana and UPF Nigeria hosted a conference on “Peace, Security and Human Development in Africa,” in collaboration with the African Centre for Peace Building on October 29-30, 2015. A highlight of the conference was the presentation of African Peace Awards to individuals and organizations who contribute to sustainable and lasting peace in Africa. Participants came from Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Brazil.

Peace Education — UPF-Ghana held a one-day Peace Education seminar on October 22, 2015, for a group of Nigerians living in Ghana. The seminar, which had 20 persons in attendance, was the inspiration of a traditional ruler, His Royal Highness Eze Ositadinma Stanley Akwuobi, who said he had heard of UPF and its peace activities through a friend. Being a “man of peace” according to his royal title, he contacted UPF. Participants agreed to attend another seminar, promising to bring their family members and to mobilize more people from their tribes to receive peace education.

Character Education — UPF-Ghana held a one-day seminar to introduce character education to 37 primary and junior high school students. The seminar, held on August 1, 2015, in the Jerusalem Pentecostal Church in Labadi-Accra, explained the five universal principles of peacebuilding and core ethical values in an age-appropriate program.

Peace Education — Members of a delegation from Togo who had come to Japan for a UN conference met with UPF-Japan and local Ambassadors for Peace, and prayed for victims of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The Togolese delegation, led by Minister of Environment and Forest Resources H.E. Mr. Andre K.A. Johnson, were participating in the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held March 14-18, 2015, in Sendai, a city which was hit especially hard by the earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011.
ASIA

Peace and Security — Four hundred participants from 28 nations took part in the first Asian Summit organized by UPF. The summit, titled “Toward Peace, Security and Human Development in the Asia Pacific Region,” was held in Manila from January 30 to February 1, 2015. Dignitaries came from many Asian nations and other regions of the world. Philippine dignitaries included His Excellency Joseph Ejercito Estrada, the former president of the Philippines, who is currently the Manila City mayor. Other dignitaries were former Prime Minister of Nepal, His Excellency Madhav K. Nepal; five-time Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, Honorable Jose C. De Venecia Jr.; and other distinguished leaders. In addition to the conference, an Interfaith Peace Blessing Ceremony was held in Marikina City.

Peace and Security — An Asian Leadership Conference (ALC) on the theme “The Role of Asian Nations for 21st Century Global Peace,” took place in Bangkok, Thailand, June 25-29, 2015. Of the 21 participants, sixteen were from Malaysia, three from Vietnam, one from Pakistan, and one from Thailand. The content of the program focused on the Principles of Peace, based on the teachings of UPF founder Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The emcee was Mr. Yutaka Yamada, a representative of Family Federation for World Peace (FFWPU) Malaysia. Dr. Lek Thaveetemsakul, vice chair of UPF-Asia, welcomed the guests and encouraged them to study hard. Presenters included: Dr. Chung Sik Yong, chairman of UPF-Asia; Dr. Robert Kittel, director of education of UPF-Asia; and Mrs. Ursula McLackland, secretary general of UPF-Asia.

KOREA

United Nations Relations — Forty Ambassadors for Peace from UPF-Korea took part in a seminar at the United Nations on May 13, 2015 in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Moderated by Mr. John Paul Hong, UPF vice president, the seminar was opened by Dr. Tageldin Hamad, UPF secretary general, who spoke about the work of its founders and their emphasis on creating peace in families, nations and around the world. Dr. Thomas Walsh, UPF president, spoke about UPF’s initiatives for peace including a proposal for an interreligious council at the UN, programs for strengthening the family, and forming peace zones in conflict areas.
Peace Education — More than 100 UPF leaders, members and Ambassadors for Peace from Korea and Russia came together at a Bridge of Peace ceremony. The symbolic expression of Russian-Korean friendship was held at the Eurasian Peace Embassy in Moscow on April 23, 2015. Twenty-six representatives came from South Korea and eighty individuals comprised the Russian side. The high point of the program was the Korean-Russian Bridge of Peace, the ceremony of brotherhood and sisterhood, where the representatives embraced in the spirit of peace and friendship.

JAPAN

Marriage and Family — UPF-Japan and its Council of Ambassadors for Peace hosted the International Leadership Conference on “Crisis in Families and Visions for their Revitalization – Emergency of Japan’s Dwindling Childbirth and Possible Countermeasures,” in Tokyo on September 29, 2015. The keynote speaker of the half-day event was Ms. Cheryl Wetzstein, a veteran journalist with the American newspaper, The Washington Times.

Marriage and Family — An ILC event was held on June 21, 2015 in Sapporo, capital of Hokkaido Prefecture, on the theme: “Families in Crisis and Visions for their Revitalization – Emergency of Decreasing Childbirth Rate and Japan’s Options.” Experts and scholars discussed the issue of Japan’s declining population and the consequences it could have on the country, including Japanese municipalities, some of which could disappear in the future.

Religious Youth Service — Young people from Korea and Japan journeyed to the historic city of Lviv in western Ukraine to take part in Religious Youth Service projects. The May 8-10, 2015 program began in the Lviv City Council, where an official in the mayor’s office met the young visitors to take them on a tour of the city. The volunteers worked in the Metropolitan Garden near St. George’s Cathedral. Through their time spent working in Ukraine, the young Koreans and Japanese felt a deep connection with the Ukrainian people. “Ukraine will always be in my heart,” said a volunteer from Korea.

EURASIA

Marriage and Family — UPF-Russia held a conference on “Family Values as the Basis for Stability and Prosperity in Russian Society.” The program, which was organized in partnership with the Russian chapter of Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) took place on December 19, 2015. The event included a plenary session with presentations by experts as well as roundtable discussions. Master of ceremonies Dmitry Samko, the secretary general of UPF’s Moscow chapter, said that now while humanity is closely following dramatic events in the international arena, we should not neglect the most important thing — the family and its moral challenges.

Character Education — Several dozen young Russians spent a weekend caring for nature as part of an eco-tourism festival on the banks of the Bournaya River. The festival titled “My Country—My Home: It’s Nice and Cozy in It!” took place June 12-13, 2015, in the village of Losevo in Russia’s northwestern Leningrad Region. The project was organized by the group Youth for Morality, in conjunction with the Northwest Russia chapter of UPF. In two days, the young volunteers cleared debris from favorite recreation areas of many residents of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region.
Youth UPF — Young people from Austria and Germany joined Russian Youth Ambassadors for Peace during the annual Spring Week of Goodness. From April 18-26, 2015, Russians cleaned their neighborhoods and did other volunteer projects as part of Global Youth Service Day. At the invitation of UPF-Russia, young Austrians and Germans visited Moscow. They scraped the bottoms of boats, cleaned the area and helped in other ways, communicating through the language of heart and goodness.

Peace Education — Ukrainian and Korean schoolchildren attended a meeting organized by UPF-Ukraine at a Peace School in Kiev’s “Family House.” The meeting, held on April 2, 2015, was attended by 30 pupils, including 11 from Korea. It included a special “Interaction” training program featuring interesting games and tasks. The meeting was very exciting for all the participants.

EUROPE

Monza, Italy — Soccer players representing more than 15 nationalities, including refugees newly arrived in Italy, competed for the UPF Peace Cup. The event, organized by UPF-Monza, took place at the Sada Stadium in the northern Italian city of Monza on Saturday, June 27, 2015. “Sport has the power to change the world and bring people together,” said Carlo Chierico, the president of UPF-Monza. “This is a phrase by Nelson Mandela, and we have demonstrated its truth once again this year. That’s why I want to recognize UPF founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon. It was he who founded the first Peace Cup.”

Paris, France — Speakers from several faiths kept the attention and won the hearts of participants at UPF-France’s third interreligious meeting of the year. A joint effort of UPF and its sister organization, Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP)-France, the meeting entitled “The Role of Spiritual Groups in Public Life” was held on April 18, 2015. Speakers included: Father Stan Rougier, a Catholic priest; Michel Thao Chan, the president of the Circle of Reflection of Nations; Mrs. Lila Boukortt, head of the Association France Euro Méditerranée; and Mr. Ghaleb Bencheikh, president of the French chapter of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

MIDDLE EAST

Service Programs — With funds received from UPF International and the International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF)-Germany, on February 26, 2015 UPF-Lebanon representatives returned to the same refugee camp near Beirut that they had visited several times in 2014. The involvement of UPF-Lebanon in distributing financial support was greatly appreciated by the 55 Syrian refugee families.

Interfaith Programs — On October 27, 2015, the Levinsky College of Education in Tel Aviv held a special class discussion on the role of educators in times of crisis. Faith leaders joined 60 students from the program for the discussion, which was co-organized by Levinsky College, Israel’s Department of Religious Communities of the Interior Ministry, and UPF-Israel’s Jerusalem Interfaith Forum.

Interfaith Programs — More than 20 people, Jews and Arabs, gathered for the Jerusalem Interfaith Forum on October 20, 2015, to express their mutual hope for peace. They also shared their determination to continue their efforts to promote peace and harmony among Jews and Arabs in Israel. The event, which was held at the Greek Orthodox Church of Mar Elias in Haifa, was hosted by Father Masoud Abu-Hatoum, archimandrite of
the Greek Malekite Church. Referring to the recent violence in Israel, he also said no one wants to live in fear of being attacked, whether the person is Jewish, Muslim or Christian.

Sports Programs — The Freedom From Fear Magazine, a publication of the UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), featured an article about “Football for Peace,” a project that was co-organized by UPF-Israel and UPF-San Marino in Turin, Italy in March 2015.

Peace Education — On May 4, 2015, the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem held a conference on the theme, “Dialogue Instead of Conflict – Education for Recognition of the Other.” Senior members of the Jerusalem Interfaith Forum were invited by the Truman Institute to participate in a special session of religious leaders entitled, “The Role of Religious Leaders in Education for the Recognition of the Other.”

Sports Programs — An Arab-Jewish soccer team visited Turin, Italy, March 19-26, 2015, to participate in the “Un Calcio per la Pace” (“Football for Peace”) project. The team, named “Peace Dreamers,” was formed to play friendly soccer matches with Italian children’s teams. The project was conceived by the UPF chapters of Israel and San Marino, and was developed and carried out in partnership with the Women’s Federation for World Peace in Turin with support from UPF-Italy, the municipality of Turin, and the municipalities of Afula and Iksal in Israel.

OCEANIA

Peace and Security — “Peace, Security and Human Development in Oceania” was the theme of the 2015 UPF-Oceania regional conference. A total of 53 delegates came from the Pacific Ocean nations of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and New Zealand, as well as from Melbourne, Queensland and Sydney in Australia. The UPF conference, which was held at the Oceania Peace Embassy in Sydney, December 1-2, 2015, was jointly organized and supported by the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP).

Peace Education — Six persons who are widely recognized for their service to others were presented by UPF with Living for Others Awards. The event, which took place on December 7, 2015, at the Oceania Peace Embassy in Sydney, has been held regularly over the past ten years to honor UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, who promoted and exemplified the ethic of living for the sake of others extensively during his life.

Peace Education — Prosperity and world peace were the main topics at the bimonthly Ambassadors for Peace meeting held on October 6, 2015. Some 40 Ambassadors for Peace, UPF supporters, members and guests attended the meeting which was held at the Oceania Peace Embassy in Sydney. The special guest speaker was Andrew Chalk, inaugural chair of the Australian branch of Gawad Kalinga, an international poverty alleviation organization.

Peace Education — The Victoria Peace Council held its second meeting to define the vision, mission, values and peacebuilding principles to guide its work. The peace council was formed in April 2015 following UPF’s proposal for the establishment of peace councils that receive input from faith traditions as well as politics and academia.

NORTH AMERICA

American Leadership Conference — A program was held on November 14, 2015, by the UPF-Washington, D.C., office, directed by Tomiko Duggan, under the theme “America at a Turning Point: Principles and Values for Building a Nation of Peace,” which also commemorated the 10th anniversary of UPF. Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, regional chair of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification of North America and regional chair of UPF-North America, warmly welcomed everyone to the program and shared anecdotes about the founders. Dr. Thomas Walsh, president of UPF International, gave an inspiring presentation on UPF’s background and core values.

Peace Education — An American Leadership Conference was held at the International Peace Education Center in Las Vegas, USA on December 12, 2015, titled “America at a
Turning Point: Principles and Values for Building a Nation of Peace.” In the face of recent threats to peace on the world stage, the topic was compelling to the participants. There were over 80 participants present for this event. Following an invocation by the Rev. Emanuel Wasson III, a welcoming letter from the governor of Nevada was read. Seven citizen activists from Las Vegas were presented with an Ambassador of Peace appointment.

SOUTH AMERICA

Peace Education — “Values and Culture of Peace” was the main theme of a special event UPF and the Women’s Federation for World Peace of Uruguay and Argentina organized on November 28, 2015 at the Peace Embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay’s capital. During the break, two olive trees were planted: one by WFWP and another by UPF representatives from Argentina and Uruguay, in Uruguay’s National Garden to represent a strengthening of relations between both nations and the close bonds that exist between people from different Latin America countries.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Peace and Security — UPF held its first conference for Central America and the Caribbean region, “Building Bridges of Peace,” in San José, Costa Rica on June 25, 2015. UPF’s Central America and Caribbean regional office and UPF-Costa Rica co-organized the event in partnership with the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification-Costa Rica, CARP-Costa Rica, Women’s Federation for World Peace-Costa Rica, and Telepaz Channel 52. FFWPU International sponsored the conference. More than 100 delegates, including UPF chapter presidents, and religious and civic leaders, participated in the one-day event.

Religious Youth Service — From November 4-11, 2015, UPF-Honduras director, Mr. Mario Salinas, and RYS advisor, Rev. Carol Pobanz, visited three cities to propose making a Peace Park. The cities are: Tela, a city on the Caribbean coast; the colonial city of Comayagua; and the capital city of Tegucigalpa. The response has been positive and the project is moving along to the next stage.

Religious Youth Service — On June 14, 2015, the “Pathways to Peace” cultural exchange project was held in Nutley, New Jersey. The event, which had the theme “Peace is not simply the absence of war, but the development of friendships,” was a collaboration of the town of Nutley, the Nutley school district, the local Rotary Club, the Nutley Clergy Association, and UPF-USA. Honduran students worked with American students to create a traditional sawdust street tapestry, or alfombra (“carpet”) – patterned after the alfombras created on the streets of Comayuga, Honduras every year – on Nutley’s main street. Nearly 400 people participated in the event, which also featured music, food and a performance of martial arts. The keynote speaker was H.E. Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Flores Flake, Permanent Representative of Honduras to the UN.

Peace Education — The “First Conference on Family Values as the Only Way to Building Peace” was held at the House of Parents in the city of Anápolis, Goiás state in Brazil on June 25, 2015. Approximately 120 people, including government representatives, attended the event, which was co-organized by UPF-Brazil, Crusade Dignity and the Court of Childhood and Youth Anápolis. The media was also present and interviewed representatives of UPF-Brazil about UPF’s vision of peace.


UPF-COSTA RICA: UPF Regional Conference, San José, June 25, 2015

UPF-COSTA RICA: UPF Regional Conference, San José, June 25, 2015

Vol. 10, No. 1, 2016 | 19
New York, USA—A gala celebration of Africa Day took place at Manhattan Center in New York City on May 27, 2015, co-sponsored by the African Union in partnership with UPF and the United Nations African Ambassadors Spouses Group (UNAASG). The theme for this year’s Africa Day was “Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063.”

UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson delivered UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message for Africa Day to the hundreds of distinguished guests, comprising UN ambassadors and dignitaries, African Union officials, and other high-level officials of the diaspora. “Let us… intensify our efforts to provide Africa’s women with better access to education, work and healthcare and, by doing so, accelerate Africa’s transformation,” the UN Secretary-General said in his message.

H.E. Mr. Tête António, permanent observer of the Mission of the African Union to the UN, welcomed the audience; H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, permanent representative of Zimbabwe to the UN, delivered the message of the chair of the African Union; and H.E. Mr. Denis G. Antoine, permanent representative of Grenada to the UN, delivered the message of the president of the UN General Assembly.

Other speakers included Dr. Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad, secretary general of the UPF Office of United Nations Relations; Mrs. Miriem Oueslati Khiari, president of UNAASG, and spouse of the permanent representative of Tunisia to the UN; and Ms. Estella Amara, founder of the Beryl Roberts Orphanage Foundation.

The spouses group sponsored the evening’s African culinary buffet of delightful dishes representing the various regions of Africa, which guests enjoyed after the cake-cutting ceremony and photos.
Jerusalem, Israel — From December 1 to 3, 2015 UPF held a Middle East Peace Initiative program at the Jerusalem Dan Hotel on the theme “Toward Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.”

Interfaith leaders, parliamentarians, scholars and civil society leaders from the U.S., Europe and Israel gathered for the three-day conference to consider and formulate prospects for peace in the region.

On the evening of the first day of the program, several current as well as former government officials, including an Arab MK (member of the Knesset, Israel’s parliament) and a Jewish former government minister, gave a briefing on the history and current state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The next day, December 2, featured two sessions at the Knesset with 40 participants. The deputy speaker of the Knesset and three parliamentarians shared their views on reigniting the peace process between Israel and Palestine. UPF President Dr. Thomas Walsh and Secretary General Dr. Tageldin Hamad chaired the sessions and presented UPF’s perspective. The discussions were lively and addressed a wide range of issues, from security arrangements to people-to-people trust building. All in all, the participants gained new hope and witnessed an energized MK dedicated to the cause of peace.

In the afternoon, the international delegates visited a Jewish school, where they were introduced to the traditional Jewish approach to Talmudic study of havruta, in which a pair of students read and analyze texts in order to enhance their moral values.

On December 3, the conference sessions focused on the role of religious leaders in resolving conflicts. UPF’s regional president for the Middle East, Mr. Umberto Angelucci, as well as several religious leaders — including a Jewish rabbi and a Druze sheik and a conflict resolution scholar — shared their insights on the topic. Mr. Angelucci’s wife, Marilyn, chaired the first panel, which featured a leading Muslim imam, a Christian priest, a rabbi, and a psychologist. A lively discussion followed each session.

The two days allowed the participants to network and inspired them to redouble their efforts towards resolving the conflicts in the Middle East.

— Written by Mr. Hod Ben Zvi, President, UPF-Israel
The Role of Religion in Peacebuilding

Washington, D.C., USA—On July 14, 2015, the UPF Office of Peace and Security Affairs held a forum at The Washington Times on “The Role of Religion in Peacebuilding.”

The attendees included participants of a four-day Religious Youth Service (RYS) project in Washington, D.C. Among them were students or graduates from the University of Maryland, Rutgers University, University of Bridgeport, Towson University, West Virginia University, George Mason University, Montgomery College, and others.

Forum moderator Dr. Antonio Betancourt, director of the UPF Office of Peace and Security Affairs, gave welcoming remarks. “When the topic of peacemaking is raised, most people immediately think of the more traditional paths—political, diplomatic, military, or economic. However, I have found firsthand, in my grassroots experiences, that religion and faith-based organizations have an important role to play as the neutral peacemaker. Non-governmental organizations like UPF, RYS and the ICRD [the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy] provide what is called ‘track two diplomacy’ or ‘soft power’ solutions. Religion cannot replace traditional governmental diplomacy, but it can definitely supplement and support it.”

Among the speakers were Dr. Zainab Chaudry, outreach manager of the Maryland chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization; Dr. Zulfiqar Kazmi, executive director of The CommonGrounds USA, an organization network dedicated to the promotion of interfaith dialogue and inter-religious cooperation; Mr. Ralph E. Winnie Jr., director of the Eurasian Business Coalition’s China Program at the Eurasian Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes positive relations between the United States and Eurasia; and Mr. Ricardo de Sena, president of UPF-USA.

Conclusion: RYS, and similar organizations, can work with mosques, synagogues, temples, and churches. These organizations can also approach the leaders of youth groups and encourage them to work with other groups—not to convert one another, not to compete to see who knows more religious text or who is more right, but to serve, and to show and practice what religion and spirituality is all about. The best sermon is the one that is practiced, not the one that is preached. The role of

Continued on page 31
Peace and Security Initiatives Around the Globe

WASHINGTON DC FORUMS
Dr. Antonio Betancourt, Director, and Dr. William Selig, Deputy Director
MAR 25: Update on Bering Strait Bridge / Tunnel Proposal
JUL 14: The Role of Religion in Peace-Building
NOV 4: Peace and Security in South Asia
NOV 12: Peace and Development in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities

JERUSALEM FORUMS
Mrs. Adi Sasaki, Director
JAN 13: Jerusalem and the Holy Sites: A Call for Peace at a Time of Crisis
JAN 20: Peace and Security Forum Hosts Muslim Group from Azerbaijan
MAR 19: Forum Ponders Changes after Elections in Israel
APR 27: Implications of and the Security Dangers Israel Faces with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria’s (ISIS) expansion in the Middle East

Ensure Long-Term Stability in Jerusalem
AUG 16: Good Neighborliness in the Judean Hills-Cooperation Among Jewish and Arab Local Councils near Jerusalem
SEP 2: Economic Relations Between Israel and the Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities
SEP 17: The Battle of Survival for the Druze in Syria Haifa, Israel
NOV 4: Current Crisis of Arab Citizens of Israel
DEC 1-3: Toward Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

TOKYO FORUMS
Mr. Shigenari Kato, Director
FEB 14-16: Middle East Peace and Japan’s Roles: A European Perspective
APR 3: Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II and the Establishment of the United Nations
JUL 15: Post-2015 Development Agenda and Decent Work: Key for Sustainable Development

SOUTH ASIA PEACE INITIATIVE FORUMS
FEB 20-21: The Increasing Challenges from Extremism to Democracy: Issues and Responses, Nepal
AUG 12: Raising Public-Minded Leaders, Bangladesh
OCT 4: India Urged to Recognize Nepal’s Constitution, India

BALKANS PEACE INITIATIVE - Bringing together leaders to consider paths to peace in the Balkans

BALTIC DIALOGUE INITIATIVE - Overcoming historical tensions between Russia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania through grassroots engagement

NORTHEAST ASIA PEACE INITIATIVE - Promoting efforts to improve relations among nations in the region, with a special focus on the Korean Peninsula

SOUTH CAUCASUS INITIATIVE - Fostering understanding among the diverse groups in the region through people-to-people diplomacy.

Vol. 10, No. 1, 2016 | 23
W
ashington, D.C., USA—From July 12-15, 2015, the Religious Youth Service (RYS), a project of UPF, held a 4-day program in Washington, D.C. Twenty-three young leaders from as far as Russia and Azerbaijan, as well as New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. participated. This is the third consecutive year in which RYS has held this program in the U.S. capital.

The program is structured to introduce the participants to the three pillars of RYS: (1) interfaith education, (2) developing personal leadership and peacemaking skills, and (3) living for the sake of others through service.

**Day One:** After a warm welcome and orientation by Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, director of RYS-Washington, D.C., and Dr. William Selig, deputy director of the UPF Office of Peace and Security Affairs, the groups piled into two vans for a day of sightseeing, which included: the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. At the Lincoln Memorial, the group gathered on the exact spot where Dr. King delivered the “I Have a Dream” speech. Walking through the memorials, the participants gained a greater sense of what freedom means and the sacrifice so many men and women have made to safeguard their nation’s safety. Over dinner at the Peace Embassy, where UPF-Washington, D.C. regularly organizes educational and cultural programs, Dr. Antonio Betancourt, director of the UPF Office of Peace and Security Affairs in Washington, D.C., spoke to the participants about his unique experiences in the field of international peace and development over the past 40 years.

**Day Two:** The interfaith education began with an RYS tradition, a candle-lighting ceremony in which each participant reads a quote about world peace and understanding from religious leaders such as Mother Teresa, Saint Francis of Assisi, the Dalai Lama, Rev. Moon and others. Presentations were then given on Judaism, Christianity, Native American Religions, Unificationism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. In the afternoon, the group visited three houses of worship: (1) The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Roman Catholic church in the United States; (2) The historic Sixth & I Synagogue; and (3) The Islamic Center.

**Day Three:** The focus was on the second pillar, to develop leadership and peacemaking skills by meeting positive role models. The group met officials at the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

This was followed by a tour of the Capitol, then visits to congressmen. First they visited Congressman Danny Davis, a Democrat representing Illinois, who talked about the “imbalance” in American history: The U.S. Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident…, that all men are created equal.” It only referred to educated and land-owning men and did not include women and slaves. The last congressional office the group visited was that of Congressman Sam Johnson, a Republican representing Texas. A decorated war hero who served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Congressman Johnson spoke about his experience as a prisoner of war (POW) during the Vietnam War. While flying over Vietnam, his plane was shot down. He spent three years as part of the “Alcatraz Eleven,” a group of eleven American POWs who, although tortured daily and held in solitary confinement, resisted giving their North Vietnamese captors any information.

The evening program held at The Washington Times was a forum on “The Role of Religion in Peacebuilding,” and was organized by UPF’s Office of Peace and Security Affairs-Washington, D.C. Dr. Betancourt served as emcee. Speakers included: Dr. Zainab Chaudry, outreach manager in Maryland of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), who spoke about the role of religions in building peace. “Religions can build bridges and help reduce conflict,” she said. She gave the examples of Rev. Desmond Tutu, Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Jr. Dr. Zulfiquar Kazmi, executive director of The Commonground USA, an organization network dedicated to the promotion of interfaith dialogue and inter-religious cooperation, said, “Any religious person who foments disunity is not practicing the tenets of his faith.” He emphasized the need to bring different sides of a conflict together in dialogue to promote peace. He concluded by saying, “The role of religion is essential in peacebuilding.” Mr. Ralph Winnie, Jr., director of the China Program at the Eurasian Center, spoke on his efforts in peacebuilding with China. He shared personal stories and how he learned the basic values of integrity and respect from his family and how he applied these fundamental rules of conduct to his business and diplomatic relations with the Chinese. The last speaker was Mr. Richard de Sena, who presented UPF’s principles of
Day Four: The day included visits and high-level briefings at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD), the Heritage Foundation and the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships which oversees the other 13 federal offices in different sections within the government that deal with faith-based issues and work to help faith communities serve people better.

The main feature of the day was the service project. The volunteers did a service project in collaboration with the Washington, D.C., Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism. They pulled weeds and planted vegetables at the Neighborhood Farm Initiative, a farm in Northeast Washington, D.C., where foods are locally grown and donated to poor families. Despite the fact that it was raining, everyone’s spirit remained upbeat and inspired.

The farewell dinner was at The Washington Times. The evening’s guest speaker was former 15-term congressman Hon. Dan Burton, who encouraged everyone to consider becoming a congressman. He shared about his humble beginnings and how he worked hard to make America better. He concluded his speech by encouraging RYS participants to “set [their] goal, never give up, maintain steady efforts, and hold on to [their] dream.” Each participant was appointed a Young Ambassador for Peace and took a photo with Hon. Burton and his wife, Samia, who encouraged them to do even greater work as promising young leaders of tomorrow. Photo-taking, music and singing followed the happy and successful conclusion of this summer’s Religious Youth Service program in Washington, D.C.

— Written by Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, director of RYS-Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Susan Fefferman; and Dr. William Selig, deputy director of UPF’s Office of Peace and Security Affairs-Washington, D.C.
In support of the goals of the United Nations, the UPF and its worldwide network of individuals and organizations observed the following international days, which have been designated by the UN as significant opportunities to promote peace and human development.

World Interfaith Harmony Week (first week of February)

This age of globalization needs enlightened people in each faith who can examine their sacred writings and traditions and identify the aspects that can benefit all humanity as well as those that preserve each religion’s identity. The UN designated the first week of February every year as World Interfaith Harmony Week with the motto of “Love of God and Love of the Neighbor” / “Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor.” UPF calls on people of faith to honor the Divine indwelling in a way that encourages understanding, respect, and cooperation among people of all faiths for the well-being of our communities and peace in the world.

UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, which was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan, was observed by UPF chapters Feb. 1-7, 2015. UPF programs including forums, ceremonies, rallies and other events featured speakers from various religious traditions in the following nations:

- **Tirana, Albania**: “How Can Women Contribute to Interreligious Dialogue and Harmony?”
- **Buenos Aires, Argentina**: “Honoring Life and the Commitment to Brotherhood and Peace”
- **Sydney, Australia**: “Future Directions for Interfaith: A Young Person’s Perspective”
- **Vienna International Center (UN headquarters), Austria**: “The Relevance of Interfaith Cooperation for Securing Peace in the 21st Century”
- **Dhaka, Bangladesh**: “What Is Interfaith Harmony and What Is It For?”
- **Munich, Germany**: “What Is Heaven? Is There a (My) Kingdom of Heaven?”
- **Jerusalem, Israel**: “Interfaith Cooperation for Peace”
- **Tokyo, Japan**: “The Mission of Religious Leaders at This Critical Juncture”
- **Lalitpur, Nepal**: “Love of God, Love of Neighbor”
- **Auckland, New Zealand**: “What Should Our Response to ISIS Be?”
- **Oslo, Norway**: “Religion and Human Rights”
- **Lima, Peru**: “Building Bridges of Peace through Interreligious Leadership”
- **House of Nationalities, Moscow, Russia**: “Spiritual Dialogue of Christianity and Islam as a Guarantee of Stable Social Development and Inter-ethnic Harmony”
- **Taipei, Taiwan**: “World Interfaith Harmony Week vs. the Development of ISIS”
- **House of Lords committee room, United Kingdom**: “Interreligious Harmony and Free Speech”
- **Interfaith prayers and a brotherhood/sisterhood ceremony pairing representatives of various faiths were part of the Asian Leaders Summit in the Philippines. A film was shown about Sufi spirituality, and in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Indian Cultural Center hosted an interfaith event. An interfaith group in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, visited a mosque, church and Hindu temple. UPF-Thailand hosted an Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival that featured a ceremony representing interfaith harmony. UPF-Nigeria organized a campaign in many parts of the nation to “Pray and Preach for Peace and Peaceful Elections.”
• An interfaith rally at Dhaka University in Bangladesh led off a week of interfaith programs on the campus, and peace clubs were launched at three schools in Uttar Pradesh, India, on World Interfaith Harmony Week. Representatives of five religions met in Prague, Czech Republic, to discuss the theme of harmony and peace.

• Prayers and readings from various faith traditions, discussions, and ceremonies symbolizing interfaith harmony were included in events in various nations, including Montreal and Vancouver in Canada and Salt Lake City and Washington, D.C., in the US.

International Women’s Day (March 8)

The theme chosen by the UN for 2015 was “Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity: Picture It!” In support of the essential value and central role of women in peacebuilding and human development, UPF chapters hosted forums in Germany, United States, Argentina, Peru, Nigeria, and other nations.

• In Washington D.C., United States, the UPF Public Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., partnered with the 93-year-old Woman’s National Democratic Club (WNDC) to host an International Women’s Day commemoration. WNDC President Anna Fierst gave the welcoming remarks in the tradition of her grandmother Eleanor Roosevelt. Three speakers included: Dr. Sahar Khamis, associate professor at the Department of Communication of the University of Maryland, who spoke on “Cyberfeminism and Socio-Political Transformation”; Dr. Davina Durgana, a senior technical advisor on human trafficking at SeraphimGLOBAL, spoke about sexual slavery and slave labor; and Dr. Marcia Dyson, founder and CEO of Women’s Global Initiative and Open Global Hearts. She said, women need to “become an awakened Eve.”

• Buenos Aires, Argentina—Five distinguished Argentinian women were acknowledged for their accomplishments during the celebration of International Women’s Day 2015, including: Lila Fabiana Ferrari, Maria Teresa Herrera, Graciela Licciardi, Silvia Olguin and Andrea Vega.

The words of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of both UPF and WFWP, were read by Laura Correa de Varga, wife of the president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification of Argentina: “In the 21st century, women should play a greater role in world history, serving, along with men, as one of the wheels which carry forward the engine that builds a peaceful world. Going through a century of power and technology, women will be the central axis in building a new century represented by its culture of love and peace.”

• Lima, Peru — The forum was held in the Peruvian Congress and attended by approximately 120 persons. Congressman Dr. Yonhy Lescano co-sponsored the forum. His wife, Dr. Patricia Contador de Lescano, a lawyer and member of the UPF Peace Council of Peru, was one of the speakers. Other distinguished speakers were: Lic. Pilar Silveyra Carrillo, president of the nongovernmental organization Peruvian Woman; Dr. Sara Luz Canales Aguilar, president of the Peruvian University for Global Integration; and Mrs. Rosa Castillo Reyes, national coordinator of Mothers Clubs with approximately 150,000 members.

• Abuja, Nigeria — More than 100 distinguished guests attended a Special Women’s Assembly to mark International Women’s Day. Participants from government, nongovernmental, faith-based and community organizations attended as well as Ambassadors for Peace and their spouses, women leaders of religious, political and nongovernmental organizations. Delegations included the National Council of Women’s Societies, the Defense and Police Officers Wives Association, the Prison Officers Wives Association, and the Fruitful Homemakers Association.

• In Stuttgart, Germany, Margit Henrich, a specialist in German studies, gave an impressive and moving talk on “The Role of Women in Literature.”

International Day of Families (May 15)

UPF joined in commemorating the International Day of Families. For 2015, the UN chose the theme “Men in Charge? Gender Equality and Children’s Rights in Contemporary Families.” UPF chapters hosting programs included:

• Washington, D.C., USA — The UPF-DC office and The Washington Times Foundation welcomed over 70 members of the diplomatic community, NGO leaders, Ambassadors for Peace, and friends of UPF at the Washington Times on June 4.
• New York, USA—On May 28, UPF International co-sponsored with the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the UN and the UN NGO Committee on the Family a forum on “Our Cities in Crisis: A Time for Reflection on Crime, Poverty and the Family” at the UN headquarters in New York. The program was opened by Mrs. Florence Denmark, co-chair of the UN NGO Committee on the Family. Speakers included: H.E. Mr. Denis G. Antoine, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN.

• Fier and Tirana, Albania—UPF-Albania organized observances in the cities of Fier and Tirana. The mayor of the city of Fier, prefecture-level officials, school directors and Ambassadors for Peace were among the participants.

• Prague, Czech Republic—At the June 3 conference more than 80 participants listened to presentations by six members of the Czech Parliament and one member of the European Parliament, among other speakers. The event was organized together with the Civic Institute and supported by the Topaz organization under the auspices of Mrs. Nina Nováková, a member of the Czech Parliament.

• Oslo, Norway—The 2015 UN International Day of Families was observed by UPF-Norway with a program entitled “Are There Universal Family Values among Religions?” The program was held in the Diakonhjemmet University College in Oslo on May 27, 2015. Four speakers commented on the topic, including: Magdalena Kwak Nyberg, an academic born in Korea who has settled in Norway; Nazish Khan, a Muslim author born in Norway; Stein Hardeng, a teacher from University College; and Steinar Murud, secretary general of UPF Norway.

• Parnell, New Zealand—UPF-New Zealand held a family forum with two distinguished speakers from Qatar. The forum, entitled “Creating a Culture of Peace through the Family,” took place on May 16. The representatives of the government of Qatar were Amb. Dr. Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani, director of his nation’s Department of International Organizations and Conferences, and Counselor Ali Al-Khater, former ambassador of Qatar to Croatia.

• Taipei, Taiwan—UPF-Taiwan held a seminar at the Taipei College of Maritime Technology on May 20. UPF-Taiwan collaborated with the Department of Health Care and Social Work at Taipei College of Maritime Technology and the Professors World Peace Academy-Taiwan to organize the event. The president of the college, Dr. Yen-Po Tang, who is also vice president of UPF-Taiwan, provided the venue to hold the seminar.

• Seoul, Korea—More than fourteen members of the diplomatic community, representing seven countries, in Seoul attended an event organized by UPF-Korea on May 16, 2015 to celebrate the UN International Day of Families.

• More programs commemorating International Day of Families were held in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Ghana, Moldova, Nigeria, Peru, Republic of Congo, Russia and Venezuela.

Global Day of Parents (June 1)

UPF supports the Global Day of Parents resolution noting that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children. UPF chapters hosted events around the world, including:

• Buenos Aires, Argentina—On June 11, 2015, UPF-Argentina celebrated at the Embassy for Peace in Buenos Aires. On this day, “fathers and mothers who give us life and raise us,” were recognized. Presentations and testimonies were offered.

• Novosibirsk, Russia—UPF used an informal survey of Russians at the Novosibirsk shopping center Siberian Mall, to discuss the relationship of parents and children, and to introduce UPF’s educational programs about the four realms of heart in the family.

• Brisbane, Australia—Women upholding moral values was the topic of a joint celebration of International Day of Families and Global Day of Parents held June 11. Following the presentations, attendees discussed the importance of women in families having clear moral values and continuing to educate themselves in order to guide and inspire their families, especially children.

• Abuja, Nigeria—UPF-Nigeria celebrated by calling on all leaders to serve their constituencies with the heart of true parents. The celebration was held on June 1, 2015, at the UPF Peace Education Center in Abuja.

• Lima, Peru—On June 3, UPF-Peru together with Peruvian Congressman Dr. Yonhy Lescano organized a forum in the Sanchez Carion auditorium of the Peruvian Congress. Dr. Yonhy Lescano emphasized the role of parents, saying that they are the pillars of society upon which strong families can be built. The event concluded with a musical performance of traditional Peruvian dance and songs.

• Minsk, Belarus—On May 30, UPF representatives attended a festive program at which children from an orphanage moved the audience to tears with songs about the family and the relationship of children with their parents. The program, which took place at the Socio-Pedagogical Center the Orsha District, directed by Ella B. Azarova, was organized by the World of Family nonprofit group and the Altera youth public association and sponsored by the Horizon Belinvest-Developer private company.

• Vlora, Albania—The combined festivities were organized by the Vlorë Peace Council together with the local chapter of UPF sister organization Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU).
The event was held at Pavarësia (“Independence”) Private University, which has gained partnership status with the Vlorë Peace Council since hosting most of its activities in recent years.

- **Tokyo, Japan**—On May 28, 2015 about twenty UPF guests, including representatives of the Shinto, Buddhist and Christian faiths, gathered in Tokyo, Japan for the 63rd Interfaith Forum, organized by UPF-Japan’s Council of Religious Ambassadors for Peace.

---

**International Day of Peace (September 21)**

Each year on September 21, the UN invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities and commemorates the International Day of Peace to education and public awareness on issues related to peace. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for an international focus on the topic of “Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All.”

Thirty-eight UPF chapters celebrated the IDP in 12 regions around the world.

Highlights include:

- **Albania**: Ambassadors for Peace gave packages containing learning tools to about 100 orphans.
- **Argentina**: Awards were given to the winners of the 7th International Poetry Contest.
- **Australia**: Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, the president of WFWP International, was the special guest speaker.
- **Canada**: UPF celebrated the day with an interfaith ceremony, discussion and appointment of new Ambassadors for Peace.
- **Central African Republic**: A UPF statement was read on national radio and militia leaders became Ambassadors for Peace.
- **Central America and the Caribbean**: Celebrations were held in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.
- **Côte d’Ivoire**: Hon. Gbocho Emmanuel, MP, was the keynote speaker at a gathering of 60 dignitaries.
- **Denmark**: Christiansborg Palace was the site of the celebration and the interfaith Water Ceremony.
- **Ecuador**: Celebrations were held in the country’s two largest cities, Quito and Guayaquil.
- **Ethiopia**: Youth Ambassadors for Peace comprised the majority of the participants.
- **Finland**: The current European refugee crisis was the focus of the day’s discussion.
- **France**: Main speaker Mr. Doudou Diène from Senegal emphasized the need for interreligious dialogue.
- **Germany**: Commemorative ceremonies were held in two major cities, Bonn and Stuttgart.
- **Iceland**: Representatives of many faiths took part in a ceremony in Iceland’s largest church.
- **India**: Youth and educators participated in events in the cities of New Delhi and Orai.
- **Israel**: Representatives of various faiths took part in the Forgiveness Project.
- **Italy**: UPF teamed with Women’s Federation for World Peace to examine “Peace Education: Nourishment of Conscience.”
- **Marshall Islands**: Representatives of different faiths took part in a Candle Ceremony and Water Ceremony.
- **Moldova**: Students and faculty renovated a bus station and created a Rose Alley of Peace at their school.
- **Nepal**: The day was celebrated in four districts with discussions, cultural programs and the distribution of relief support.
- **Netherlands**: UPF held a benefit dinner to raise funds for a children’s hospital in North Korea.
- **Nicaragua**: Representatives of civil society, educators and students participated in events in León.
- **Nigeria**: Ambassadors for Peace met in Uyo and Port Harcourt, the capitals of two Nigerian states.
- **Peru**: A march for peace was the highlight of celebrations in four cities.
- **Russia**: Young and old celebrated the day in various towns with sport, culture and discussions.
- **Sri Lanka**: Students participated in a peace walk and performed dances and skits.
- **Switzerland**: The day was celebrated with music, a panel discussion, and Ambassador for Peace awards.
- **Taiwan**: UPF-Chinese Region commemorated the day with a forum on Cross-Strait Peace.
- **Thailand**: More than 1,500 schools and government offices – involving more than 1 million people took part in events.
- **Ukraine**: The day was celebrated with mini-football competitions and lessons in Japanese origami.
- **United States**: Hon. Todd Tiahrt was a speaker at UPF’s celebration of the day in Washington, D.C.
- **Zambia**: Speakers urged the participants to work together to build a better Zambia and a better world.
- **Other chapters included**: China, Japan, New Zealand

---

*Edited by Dr. William Selig, deputy director of UPF’s Office of Peace and Security Affairs-Washington, D.C.*
The Japanese tea ceremony, also called the Way of Tea, goes back more than 1,000 years. It is both an art and a spiritual discipline. This past year, successful gatherings were hosted by UPF in Washington, D.C., and New York. The programs provided the occasion for outreach to friends and contacts in the diplomatic community and to introduce the rich tradition, beauty and contemplation that the tea ceremony represents.

Since the first program was hosted by UPF-DC in 2006, over 1,200 diplomats and NGO leaders, including 162 ambassadors and their spouses from 100 nations, have enjoyed the ceremony.

**Washington, D.C., December 11, 2015**

The UPF-DC office hosted its annual fall Japanese Tea Ceremony at the District of Columbia’s Peace Embassy. The Embassy was decorated beautifully with colorful Japanese dolls, flowers, kimonos and other cultural traditional items. The guests felt embraced by a pleasant, warm welcome in the spirit of *chanoyu* (茶の湯), or the Japanese Way of Tea.

The more than 40 guests included: H.E. Dr. Thelma Phillip-Browne, ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis; H.E. Soorooj Phokeer, ambassador of Mauritius; H.E. Jose Luis Rocha, ambassador of Cape Verde, and other diplomats from the embassies of Cambodia, Fiji, Thailand, Qatar, the U.S. Department of State and NGO leaders.

According to the tea ceremony tradition, the attitude of the host or tea master is to welcome the guests with a sincere heart because this occasion might be the only opportunity to meet these particular guests in one’s lifetime. The host prepares the tea room and selects bowls of tea for the occasion with an emphasis on the season and according to the people who are invited.

The Way of Tea in Japan is deeply rooted in the teachings of Zen Buddhism, which teaches a person how to live in peace and harmony, to respect others and all things, and to keep a pure and tranquil heart.

Tea Ceremony host Mrs. Kumiko Francis did a splendid job with patient, flowing movements encouraging the relaxation and peacefulness of the guests and then welcomed everyone to examine all the ceremony accessories including bowl, whisk, scoop, mat, and bamboo container.

Tomiko Duggan, director of public affairs of UPF-DC, gave a brief explanation about this age-old ceremony. Calling attention to the ceremony’s simplicity and how it calms the mind, she said, UPF advocates and promotes practicing the highest universal principle of “Living for the Sake of Others,” and building “One Global Family Under God.”

**New York, December 2, 2015 (and other dates throughout the year)**

The Japanese Tea Ceremony was hosted by Amb. Denis G. Antoine of Grenada and Amb. Joy Ogwu of Nigeria in cooperation with UPF International on December 2, 2015 at the Consulate of Nigeria. More than 20 participants attended, including 12 ambassadors, three diplomats from UN Member States; and representatives of the UN agencies FAO and UNESCO as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Amb. Ogwu, who served as president of the UN Security Council, said she appreciates the ceremony’s sense of calmness and respect and would like to incorporate its tenets into her nation’s discussions on “peace and security.”
Religion is to provide the wisdom of the ages—truths that were true 10,000 years ago, today, and will be true 10,000 years from now—universal truths that give purpose and meaning to life.

Peace and Security Affairs

UPF acknowledges the need for careful and proportionate use of power, including political, economic, military and civil society power to sustain lasting peace. Concurrently, the foundations of peacebuilding are to be found in trust and mutual respect, and an emphasis on “soft power” solutions.

UPF is dedicated to the road to peace and is a leading exponent of “track two” diplomacy, which emphasizes the role and responsibility of religious and spiritual leaders to transcend national self-interests and pursue the ideal of “One family under God.” As Mother Teresa said: “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

Written by Dr. William Selig, deputy director of UPF’s Office of Peace and Security Affairs—Washington, D.C.