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UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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Centre International de Conférence Abdou Diouf
KARAKORUM NÉPAL



AFRICA SUMMIT 2018

WORLD SUMMIT 2017

INTERRELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

IAPP PROGRAMS



FROM THE PUBLISHER

This latest issue of UPF Today features highlights of programs from 2017, as well as a special report on the remarkably successful Africa Summit 2018, convened in Dakar, Senegal. We are encouraged by the continued growth and development of UPF around the world, and acknowledge with pride and appreciation that our regional headquarters and national chapters are active and strong. Indeed it is both the breadth of vision and the worldwide reach—north, south, east and west—that distinguishes UPF as a global leader in peacebuilding. UPF’s network of Ambassadors for Peace, representing all sectors—government, religion, academia, civil society, the private sector, etc.—is “one of a kind.”



Dr. Thomas G. Walsh
Chairman, UPF

The Africa Summit 2018 was a pathbreaking success and involved more than 1200 leaders from all across Africa. Senegal’s distinguished President Macky Sall was a gracious host and shared an inspiring vision of peace. The Africa Summit 2018 also included two of the premier programs of UPF, the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), which was launched in 2016, and the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD), which had its inauguration in Korea only this past November. These two global networks of parliamentarians and religious leaders will work collaboratively to address and solve critical global problems on the global, regional and national levels.

We trust you will find inspiration by reading this latest issue of UPF Today and we look forward to working together with you, to build one global family of peace under one God.

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UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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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.

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COVER:

H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal receives the Leadership and Good Governance Award at the Africa Summit 2018; (bottom photos l. to r.) Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Dr. Sakena Yacobi, Dr. Gino Strada, and Dr. Il-Sik Hong; Interreligious Leadership Conference in Seoul, Korea; and IAPP Inauguration in Australia



FIRST AFRICA SUMMIT CONVENES IN SENEGAL

Dakar, Senegal | January 18-19, 2018

The two-day summit was organized and sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), in cooperation with the government of Senegal under the presidency of H.E. Macky Sall and the National Assembly of Senegal.

Fifteen heads of state (current or former), 12 vice presidents, six presidents of their National Assemblies, 35 ministers and heads of government, and 150 religious leaders were among the 1,200 participants from more than 60 countries. The theme of this first summit was “New Africa: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values,” and the summit was held at the Abdou Diouf International Conference Center (CICAD).

SESSION I

Master of ceremonies Mr. Adama Doumbia, the UPF regional secretary general for Africa, began the opening session on January 18 by welcoming to the stage UPF founder **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** and the president of Senegal, **H.E. Macky Sall**, who entered to a standing ovation.

The **Opening Plenary** included the National

Anthem of Senegal sung by the Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet of Korea, interfaith prayers by **Imam Cheikh Ahmed Tidiane Cissé** (Senegal) and **Archbishop Johannes Ndanga** (Zimbabwe), followed by the distinguished speakers.

Cheikh Mansour Diouf, president of the Africa Summit 2018 Steering Committee, praised President Macky Sall for supporting the “first Africa Summit for peace, unity and human sustainable development.” Cheikh Mansour praised the founder, saying that “she lives for peace and only for peace, that she would like to share with all of humankind.” He thanked President Sall for convening the summit as an expression of his devotion to peace, and the various members of the Senegalese government, traditional chiefs and youth leaders whose contributions to its being held were significant.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, the chair of UPF International, expressed gratitude to the president and praised the conference center as “a world-class, state-of-the-art facility.” Dr. Walsh called the president a mentor for many UPF members because of his sincere concern that the summit be a total success. He thanked Dr. Moon for the worldwide movement she leads with vision, clarity, and deep spiritual wisdom. “Within her,” he said, “is a profound practical capacity to apply this spiritual and moral vision to solve problems humanity faces.”

H.E. Dioncounda Traoré, president of Mali (2012-2013) and the Africa co-chair of IAPP, gave a gracious introduction to the UPF founder. He outlined Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's life and marriage to Rev. Sun Myung Moon; her 14 children and more than 40 grandchildren. He said, "She is known for her natural grace and charm. She fought alongside her husband to build a society of peace in the world... and she leads with conviction and determination, even launching new initiatives on the world level in the years since her husband passed away."

Dr. Moon welcomed the participants to the Africa Summit and offered a unifying vision for the continent with her emphasis on the family and living for the sake of others. "We have entered a new era," she said. "My hope is that the African continent will become the heavenly continent which attends God as the central point and becomes the most prosperous area in the world."

Africa is a beautiful continent, she said, "and can become the shining light of the world." She explained her motivation for coming to Senegal. "Today, with the heart of a True Mother and a True Parent, I have come here to pray and eradicate the historical pain that this continent has endured, so that this continent can stand once again in the providence of God and begin a new history."

His Excellency Macky Sall, president of Senegal, thanked Dr. Moon for coming to Senegal and for delivering "the message of hope to Africa, the birthplace of humanity." He congratulated UPF

Chair Dr. Thomas Walsh for "making peace and dialogue the basic principle of human relations." He thanked UPF for the bestowment of the honor of the Good Governance Award—"I take this as encouragement in our shared ideal toward common good"—and expressed his gratitude for the generous monetary gift, which will be used to help handicapped children and the SOS Children's Villages NGO. He especially thanked the Little Angels for singing Senegalese songs and being ambassadors for peace.

The UPF Leadership and Good Governance Award was presented to President Sall by Dr. Moon along with Dr. Thomas Walsh, in recognition of the president's excellence in leadership, based on the core values of service to God and humanity and promoting harmony and cooperation beyond barriers of race, religion, nationality and culture.

SESSION II— KEYNOTE ADDRESSES: "NEW AFRICA"

H.E. Dr. Nizar bin Obaid Madani, the minister of state for foreign affairs of Saudi Arabia, spoke about his nation's efforts to promote dialogue and realize peace and justice. The country stands against terrorism and extremism, he said.

H.E. Dioncounda Traoré, the president of Mali (2012-2013) and Africa co-chair of IAPP, pointed out that the topic has been tackled in many forums,



AWARDING OF THE LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE AWARD



DR. HAK JA HAN MOON, FOUNDER, UPF

but because UPF has a unique approach—based on the principle that we are one human family created by God—therefore “our cause at this summit is good and noble.”

H.E. Mahamane Ousmane, president of Niger (1993-1996), thanked Dr. Moon and the work of UPF to promote peace through interfaith dialogue, which is “so crucial for peace and to empower the family as the foundation for the society. ... Africa cannot develop without peace.”

H.E. Maria Des Neves, prime minister (2002-2004), second vice president of the National Assembly of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, spoke about the importance of education, especially for youth and women. “Educating the women is educating the universe,” she said.

SESSION III— SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS ABOUT UPF PEACE INITIATIVES

“**Character Education and Family Values**” by **Dr. Robert Kittel**, president, Youth and Students for Peace. Starting with the founder’s address which emphasized the importance of the family as the foundation for an ideal world, this was the topic that speakers over and over again brought up. This presentation directly related the Africa Summit theme of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values to the importance of the family as the origin of these values. The model for realizing these ideals is the family, Dr. Kittel said. As was



H.E. MACKY SALL, PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL

pointed out, the family is the place where these principles are first learned and experienced substantially.

The Sunhak Peace Prize was introduced through a video, *Living for Future Generations*, and remarks by **Dr. Sakena Yacoobi**, the founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning and a Sunhak Peace Prize laureate. The Sunhak Peace Prize recognizes individuals and organizations that have made enduring contributions to the promotion of peace and living for the sake of others, which often goes against common social practices.

“**Interdependence and the New Village Movement**” was presented by **Mr. Ok Gil Kim** of the Korean Saemaul Headquarters (New Village Movement) as a way to help develop African nations, just as it was successfully implemented in South Korea in the 1960s after the Korean War. Mr. Kim said that sustainable development “depends on the leadership. If the leaders can be inspired and dedicated by this approach and be willing to be the vanguard, then change is possible.”

“**Toward Mutual Prosperity: International Peace Highway Presentation (Peace Road)**” was given by **Dr. Thomas Walsh**, the chair of UPF International and the chair of the World Peace Road Foundation. The International Highway Project (Peace Road) is a visionary call for a superhighway free of tariffs and passports, linking the entire globe. Dr. Walsh also put into perspective the various peace initiatives being introduced in the session “as part of a grand and comprehensive strategy to restore society but beginning at the level of the individual,” he said. “An individual who lacks integrity or is corrupt can only multiply such character and create unethical institutions,” he said—therefore the need for character education.

SESSION IV — CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session IV (A) was entitled “**The Role of Parliamentarians in Peacebuilding.**” Greetings on behalf of Senegal to the assembled parliamentarians were given by **Hon. Alioune Badara Diouf**, president of the Defense and Security Committee of the National Assembly of Senegal, who reviewed the ways his committee deals with various aspects of conflict prevention in his country.

Hon. Eric Houndete, vice president of the National Assembly of Benin, spoke about the need to strengthen the institutions for peacebuilding. He reviewed some concrete problems that parliamentarians were dealing with in Benin, from shepherding to terrorism.



SESSION III SPEAKERS



KATHY RIGNEY RECEIVING GIFT

Hon. Esther Chilenje, first vice president of the National Assembly of Malawi, emphasized the need for parliamentarians to adopt a spiritual approach to preventing conflicts and to gain trust from people in their constituency.

Hon. Aida Mbodj, a member of the National Assembly of Senegal in her fourth mandate, twice minister for Family and Women’s Affairs, emphasized the role of the parliament in conflict prevention and economic development, and spoke about the importance of women parliamentarians in defending the cause of women in society.

Session IV (B) focused on “**The Role of Religious Leaders in Peace and Development.**”

Imam Moussa Dramé, the central imam of Grand-Bassam, Ivory Coast, said: “We must accept other faiths in diversity. Jesus is the symbol. He didn’t distinguish between Jew and Gentile. Often we’re quick to judge others and transform others into enemies. This is contrary to God’s way. God is love. As Ambassadors for Peace, we need to work so that we can establish peace and follow what we teach.”

Other speakers included **Archbishop Johannes Ndanga**, the founder and president of the Apostolic Christian Churches of Zimbabwe; **El Hadji Mansour Sy**, the co-president of the World Council of Religions for Peace, Senegal; and **Col. Marcellin Zannou**, the founder, l’Eglise du Christianisme céleste, Benin. The speakers were unanimous about the need for religious

leaders to take active roles in supporting peace and development on the local community level as well as on the national level.

Session IV (C) dealt with “**Traditional Rulers, the New Village Movement and Sustainable Economic Development.**”

His Royal Majesty King Nadiope Williams, Uganda, and **Chieftainess Rhoda Kapami Muwezwa**, vice chair of the House of Chiefs, Zambia, spoke of their experiences as tribal leaders and the need to obtain sustainable economic development in their communities.

Mr. Kim Eun Sang, a specialist in the coffee industry, gave an in-depth look at the coffee industry from planting and processing to marketing and sales. The fact that two-thirds of the continent is in the coffee belt gives a promising outlook for the industry’s expansion. **Hon. Patricia Annie Kaliati**, a member of the National Assembly of Malawi, and **Hon. Joseph Mwanamvekha**, the minister of agriculture of Malawi, described some of the challenges facing their country, particularly regarding agriculture, blackouts and water shortages which are mostly weather-related.

Session IV (D) focused on “**Youth Education and Nation-Building.**”

Hon. Sira Ndiaye, a member of the National Assembly of Senegal, and **Mrs. Inderjit Rehal**, the director of the Curriculum Development Department, Kenya, echoed the need to keep young people in school long enough to complete their education. A significant percent



SESSION IV: CONCURRENT SESSIONS A, B, C, D





SESSION IV: CONCURRENT SESSIONS A, B, C, D

drop out, thereby facing grim prospects in the job market without the necessary skills. In particular, girls are forced to give up their education due to family pressure to enter into early marriage.

Dr. Robert Kittel, the international president of Youth and Students for Peace, spoke about “The Family as the School of Love” and “Four Family Loves: A Curriculum for Building Good Character and Loving Families.”

Mr. Conan Marc Trevor Kouame of the Regional Academy of Marine Sciences and Technologies, Ivory Coast, and **Ms. Gisèle Niyitegeka Girabana**, University of Val-d’Essonne, Paris, France, expounded on the *Good Character and Loving Family* curriculum, in particular the

question “Where Do I Learn to Be Good?” They said: (1) Before being smart or popular, it is more important to be good; (2) The family is the best environment in which to learn “living for the sake of others”; and (3) Students should be encouraged to love and honor their parents.

SESSION V— INAUGURATION OF IAPP

Session V featured the **Inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) Africa Continent and Senegal Chapter**. Opening remarks were given by **Hon. Pape Sagna Mbaye**, president, Foreign Affairs



SESSION VI (A): SIGNING OF THE IAPP RESOLUTION



CHEIKH MANSOUR DIOUF





SESSION VI: CONCURRENT SESSIONS A, B, C, D



Commission, National Assembly of Senegal, who thanked UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for the experience of attending the World Africa Summit and the inspiration: “We dream to be in a better world.”

Hon. José de Venecia Jr., the international co-chair of IAPP, introduced the background of IAPP and UPF and their importance in dealing with the serious issues which “pose threats to human development and to achieving a lasting peace in our world,” with emphasis on poverty and income inequality.

Other speakers included **Hon. Patricia Kaliati**, a member of the National Assembly of Malawi, who said the IAPP must make sure members of parliament are working in a holistic way. “We are launching IAPP to protect the disaffected. We provide peace. Support our children and youth. ... Thank you for the economic empowerment of women, youth and leadership training.”

Hon. Jong Seong Lim, a member of the National Assembly of Korea, gave an overview of the history of highways in South Korea, beginning with the first expressway, the Gyeongin Highway between Seoul and Incheon, which opened in 1968.

H.E. Moustapha Niasse, the president of the National Assembly of Senegal, spoke on the issue of women and domestic violence and the value of having women participate in peace and conflict resolution in Africa.

SESSION VI — CONCURRENT SESSIONS

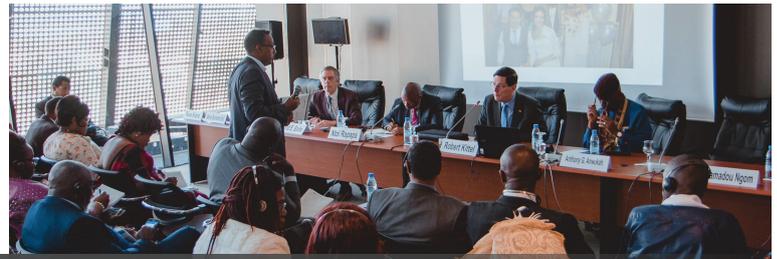
Session VI (A) presented **Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)**. **Bishop David Masupa**, the chair of Independent Churches of Zambia, gave a report on the preliminary meeting for the inauguration of IAPD in Zambia, held in Lusaka on Dec. 15, 2017. This was followed by **Bishop Odette Kouman**, the founder of the International Mission of Grace, Ivory Coast, who said: “New Africa means that we are not going to reconstruct Africa. We need to have another vision. ... As the cradle of humankind, Africa has a heavy responsibility to bear. The whole world is looking at us. ... We need to create a climate of peace. If we don’t put God at the center, how can we achieve our objectives?”

Archbishop Christopher Tusubita of Uganda said: “Peace cannot be achieved without the will to offer good governance. The IAPD should work with the government so the citizens can choose their leaders in free and fair elections. ... Religious leaders should be able to talk on



SESSION V: IAPP INAUGURATION AND SIGNING





SESSION VI: CONCURRENT SESSIONS A, B, C, D

behalf of the people. Only through free elections will Africa have development.”

Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo Ayokunle, the president of the Christian Association, Nigeria, said: “We, the religious leaders of this generation, if we were preaching the right direction and guidance, there wouldn’t be violence in the streets. I challenge the religious leaders. We must give to our followers the words and the means which will culminate with peace. If we are going to have peace in Africa, there must be right education in our churches, mosques and places of worship.”

El-Hadj Sultan Ibrahi Mbombo, senator, Cameroon, king of Bamoun, called upon the governments to “redouble their efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in our towns and villages, because poverty fuels many of the evils that threaten Africa.”

At the conclusion the participants approved the resolution to launch the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) and then signed the resolution.

Session VI (B) featured the **International Association of Chiefs for Peace and Prosperity**

(IACPP). **Chief Theko Khoabana**, Kingdom of Lesotho, said, “Where does Africa stand economically and socially in the eyes of the world? No African can walk anywhere in the world with their head held high. We are told this is a continent with vices, crime and corruption. That must change.”

At the conclusion, the participants approved the resolution to launch the International Association of Chiefs for Peace and Prosperity (IACPP) and then signed the resolution.

Session VI (C) focused on “**Peace, Security and Sustainable Development: The Role of Women.**” **Dr. Basirat Niasse**, a member of the African Union (AU) Steering Committee for the Fund for African Women, Nigeria, spoke about the limitations that have constrained the nations. “The continent has been bogged down by community and leadership crises due to gross mismanagement and persistent misapplication of its abundant human and natural resources.”

Session VI (D) dealt with “**Character Education, Marriage and Family-Building.**” In this session **Hon. Prof. Anthony G. Anwukah**, Nigerian minister of state for education, said that “good character” is based on culturally accepted norms and that in some fundamental ways the smartphone has changed our social norms by making it socially acceptable for children to be more isolated from face-to-face personal interaction.

Hon. Dr. Ntoi Rapapa, Lesotho’s deputy minister of education, explained that the purpose of character education was to make people productive citizens, and **Dr. David Earle**, the chair of UPF-UK, presented a case study of civic contributions based on his family’s effort to turn their home in Birmingham into a kind of community center.

SESSION VII — KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Keynote Addresses included perspectives from the distinguished participants. **Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal**, prime minister of Nepal (2009-2011), outlined IAPP’s four-fold objectives of peace, reconciliation, development and good governance, and said that Senegal can serve as an excellent



REV. BAKARY CAMARA



HON. AWA GUEYE

“ HUMAN BEINGS WHO RECEIVE CHARACTER EDUCATION ARE MORE LIKELY TO LIVE AS A HARMONIOUS FAMILY IN A SAFER WORLD. ”

example for Nepal because it carried out “a successful post-colonial democratic transition.”

H.E. Agbéyomé Kodjo, prime minister of Togo (2000-2002), called for “Africa, the cradle of humanity, to become a continent of peace, of interdependence, of shared prosperity, a continent proud of its identity and its authentic values.” He said, “To meet this challenge, we must strengthen the role of families in our communities in the transmission of values of love and forgiveness, solidarity and respect for human dignity.”

Rt. Hon. Professor Aaron Mike Oquaye, speaker, National Assembly of Ghana. “Africa is facing a new paradigm; the problem is that most of Africa still follows the old colonial paradigm, which is that Africa would produce the raw materials and the colonial powers would produce the finished products. The new paradigm must see Africa with its own industry and be self-sufficient,” Professor Oquaye said.

H.E. Reverien Ndikuriyo, president of the Senate of Burundi, welcomed Dr. Moon and the UPF as “role models” toward building a more prosperous and peaceful nation.

Hon. Jean Max Rakotomamonjy, speaker, National Assembly of Madagascar, congratulated UPF for taking up the cause for peace and development in Africa.

Hon. Awa Gueye, second vice president of the National Assembly of Senegal, said: “Our wish is to become full human beings who are committed, respectful of society and its common rules, and endowed with qualities of compassion and religious values. Human beings who receive character education are more likely to live as a harmonious family in a safer world.”

Ambassador Moustapha Mahmoud el Kouny, the Egyptian ambassador to Senegal, said the fight against ideological extremism in all its forms must continue. It should also include the eradication of poverty and social injustice. Egypt believes in a comprehensive approach including dialogue and sustainable development, the ambassador said.

SESSION VIII— CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

The **Closing Plenary Session** included reflections by the summit leadership, presentation of gifts, an Ambassadors for Peace awards ceremony, and the presentation of Little Angels medals to representatives of all African nations.

Cheikh Mansour Diouf read the **Dakar Peace Declaration**, which was unanimously approved and adopted by the participants.



SESSION VII SPEAKERS



VISIT TO GORÉE ISLAND



DR. MOON OFFERS PRAYER AT GORÉE ISLAND

CONCLUSION

Besides addressing the summit participants and meeting the UPF leadership and members from throughout the continent, Dr. Moon visited **Gorée Island**, a small, car-free island off the coast of Dakar, known for its role in the Atlantic slave trade of the 15th to 19th centuries. On January 19, she joined with African spiritual leaders and members of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), an affiliate organization, to conduct an interfaith prayer for peace and reconciliation. She also generously donated a boat to be used for emergency medical evacuations.

The summit successfully launched the following three important peace initiatives, which contribute to peace and human development at the national and continental levels: the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP); the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD); and the International Association of Chiefs for Peace and Prosperity (IACPP). ♦

— Written by UPF International



THE LITTLE ANGELS CHILDREN'S FOLK BALLET OF KOREA



WORLD SUMMIT 2017



Seoul, Korea | February 1-5, 2017

World Summit 2017, organized by the Universal Peace Federation from February 1 to 5, 2017, provided a comprehensive assessment of peace, security and human development around the world.

In attendance at the five-day program were more than 700 delegates, including more than 400 current and former members of parliament as well as heads of state and government, prime ministers, civil society dignitaries, and religious and women leaders from 120 countries.

The program comprised the Founders Celebration (February 2), the World Summit conference (February 1

to 4), the Inaugural World Assembly of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) (February 2), the Sunhak Peace Prize (SHPP) Award Ceremony (February 3), and the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) (February 4 and 5).

FOUNDERS CELEBRATION

At the CheongShim Peace World Center in Gapyeong, about an hour's drive northeast of Seoul, the World Summit participants joined more than 30,000 well-wishers on February 2 to commemorate the birthdays of UPF founders Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her husband, the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Congratulatory remarks were given by the Hon. Dan Burton, a co-chair of IAPP and a former U.S. congressman from the state of Indiana, who thanked Dr. Moon for her "exemplary leadership to move the world toward true peace based on strong families centered on God, our Heavenly Parent."

WORLD SUMMIT 2017

More than 60 speakers spoke on the theme "**Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Peace, Security and Human Development**," offering analyses and recommendations on peace on the Korean Peninsula, environmental degradation, violent conflict, extreme poverty, and the breakdown of the family.

Peace on the Korean Peninsula: Ambassador Christopher Hill, a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea, Iraq, Poland and Macedonia and a former assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, addressed the security challenges coming from North Korea. "The problems of the peninsula concern the entire world and not just the region," he said. Ambassador

Joseph DeTrani, a former U.S. special envoy to the Six-Party Talks, spoke about the problem of nuclear proliferation. “I believe negotiation is attainable,” he said. North Korea has conducted many tests of nuclear weapons and missile development, but “the realities have to be addressed, hopefully through peaceful negotiations. The alternative could be an arms race in this region.” Hon. Jae-kwon Shim, the chair of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the Republic of Korea’s National Assembly, expressed concern about the shift of diplomacy and trade in favor of the United States and the uncertainty it is causing in the world.

Environmental degradation: H.E. Anote Tong, the former president (2003-2016) of the Republic of Kiribati, described climate change as “the most significant moral challenge for humanity. We’re fighting against ourselves, not another nation.” Hon. Kessai Note, a senator and the former president (2000-2008) of the Marshall Islands, voiced support for nuclear disarmament and apprehension over global warming. President Note is credited with coining the term “ecological refugee” over the possibility that due to sea-level rise and global warming, many islands face ecological disaster. H.E. Federico Franco Gomez, a former president (2012-2013) of Paraguay, expressed gratitude to Rev. Dr. Moon and his pioneering efforts to develop fish farming in the Chaco region of Paraguay and Brazil. He believes that Rev. Dr. Moon’s vision to end poverty and protect the environment through fish farming and tapping into the oceans’ resources is very viable.

Violent conflict: This theme touched the hearts of the collective assembly, particularly violence toward women and children and the growing menace of human trafficking. Hon. Chandrani Bandara, Sri Lanka’s minister of Women and Child Affairs, spoke on the situation in her nation and, in particular, about programs that empower women and secure the rights and protection of children.

Extreme Poverty: Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir, a member of parliament in Chad, said: “There is no more serious



threat to peace and security than poverty and especially inequality. Poverty is a social injustice that paves the way for all manifestations of violence under the guise of political, cultural or religious conflicts. There can be no lasting peace without development, and there can be no inclusive development without good governance.”

Breakdown of the family: Dr. Lek Thaveetermsakul, the vice chair of UPF-Asia, pointed out that many of the critical challenges we face today originate from the breakdown of families and family values. Mr. Tuo-Huan Chen, the regional secretary general of UPF for the Chinese Region, explained about the dangers of comprehensive sex education, which is being promoted in schools around the world. He emphasized the need for education to promote abstinence before marriage and fidelity between husband and wife.

In her keynote address, **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon**, founder of the IAPP, gave an eloquent overview of the philosophy and understanding that has guided her life. God, the original owner of this world, had a plan, a dream that all humankind would be united as one family under God, our universal Parent, she said, but due to the disobedience of the first ancestors, self-centeredness entered into human nature. God is frustrated because so many people still are ignorant and don’t understand the true relationship between God and humanity, she said. God has a plan to save humanity centered on a messianic ideology: “The problems of the world can only be resolved through the advent of the True Parents.” She asked everyone in attendance to promote the IAPP and become national messiahs to their nations.





discrimination. ... We need alliances and cooperation to face these challenges. ... We need strong cooperation and alliances to tackle the nuclear ambitions of North Korea.” **Hon. Yoo-chul Won**, a member of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly of South Korea, proposed a “Grand Korea Silk Road” as a way to connect the peninsula with Russia and China through a network of roads, tunnels, and the use of ferries to carry trains. **Hon. Dr. Rachel Carling-Jenkins**, a member of the Legislative Council of Australia’s Victoria state, called on the world’s leaders to have compassion for the most vulnerable—children, refugees, the disabled, the elderly, the poor. **Rt. Hon. Richard Msowoya**, the speaker of the Malawi National Assembly, spoke about protecting the human rights of those with albinism.

INAUGURAL IAPP WORLD ASSEMBLY

More than 400 parliamentarians joined with Korean parliamentarians, members of the diplomatic corps, and distinguished local dignitaries for the inaugural International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) World Assembly on February 2 at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, the president of UPF International, served as the moderator. The panelists were a prominent group of specialists representing different regions of the world. **Hon. Matt Salmon**, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives (1994-2000, 2012-2016) from the state of Arizona, focused his remarks on the family. The most important thing that leaders can do is to strengthen the families, he said. “As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live,” he said. **H.E. Milan Dunović**, the vice president of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, spoke about good governance. “The obligation of all politicians is to serve their country,” he said.

Representing the Korean perspective on the panel were two parliamentarians. **Hon. Sye-kyun Chung**, the speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, said: “We are living in an age of uncertainty and unease. There is conflict, climate change, economic polarization,

discrimination. ... We need alliances and cooperation to face these challenges. ... We need strong cooperation and alliances to tackle the nuclear ambitions of North Korea.” **Hon. Yoo-chul Won**, a member of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly of South Korea, proposed a “Grand Korea Silk Road” as a way to connect the peninsula with Russia and China through a network of roads, tunnels, and the use of ferries to carry trains. **Hon. Dr. Rachel Carling-Jenkins**, a member of the Legislative Council of Australia’s Victoria state, called on the world’s leaders to have compassion for the most vulnerable—children, refugees, the disabled, the elderly, the poor. **Rt. Hon. Richard Msowoya**, the speaker of the Malawi National Assembly, spoke about protecting the human rights of those with albinism.

Hon. Hilik Bar, the deputy speaker of Israel’s Knesset, called on the parliamentarians “to act together within our parliaments to help our societies build bridges for peace.” **Hon. Alberto Alfaro Jimenez**, the president of the National Assembly of Costa Rica, offered his nation as a role model for democracy. When Costa Rica had a border dispute with neighboring Nicaragua, he said, instead of resorting to violence, the two countries took the case to the International Court of Justice.

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., a co-chair of IAPP and the former speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives (1992-1998, 2001-2008), proposed five focus areas for IAPP: building peace between the leaders of Sunni and Shia Islam in order to create peace in the Middle East; hosting an international conference and campaign against narcotics; addressing international poverty and the growing gap between rich and poor; taking steps toward preserving the environment; and working toward reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

“ FAITH IS A NATURAL PART OF HUMAN COGNITION. SCIENCE PER SE IS NOT GOOD OR BAD. IT CAN BE A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, ECONOMIC GROWTH...”

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE UNITY OF THE SCIENCES

The 23rd International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences was held on February 4 and 5. **Hon. Biman Chand Prasad**, a member of Fiji’s parliament and the director of the Fiji Institute of Applied Studies, served as moderator for this session, which dealt with the theme “Earth’s Environmental Crisis and the Role of Science.” **Professor J. Martin Ramirez** of Harvard University said: “Faith is a natural part of human cognition. Science per se is not good or bad. It can be a catalyst for social change, economic growth, saving countless lives, but it can also be dangerous and used for harmful purposes.” **Professor Luc Montagnier**, the 2008 Nobel Prize winner in Physiology and Medicine, spoke about the health challenges of the modern world and specifically on the electromagnetic effects of bacterial DNA on human DNA. **Dr. Glen Rein**, a senior researcher at Innovative Biotechnical Studies in the United States, described the interconnectedness of water, soil, food, and human beings, and how the contamination of one contaminates all the others.

CONCLUSION

Keynote topics of World Summit 2017 and the programs hosted by the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation and the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences included global conflict, the breakdown of the family, protection of the environment, and much more.

Hon. Paulo Pisco, a member of Portugal’s parliament, aptly summarized the state of the world: “The global order is falling apart, caused by selfish political decisions that are being taken without caring about its consequences



nor of the human factor.” In the face of so many challenges to peace, he summed up the general consensus of the participants and the call to action. “We should make a strong call for reasonability to all political deciders and public opinions.” Appreciating the interconnectedness of our nations, he said, “We must put forward the common good, the sense of humanity and solidarity, accepting our part of responsibility, either in relation to the tragedy of migration in the European Union or in relation to the global environment or to sustainable development. Responsibility, humanity and solidarity are the key words for people and to the planet.”

The fourth World Summit, representing almost 70 percent of the world’s nations, brought a fresh perspective to the critical challenges of our time. The participants fully embraced the insightful interpretation of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who said: “In our hearts we all desire to have a united world—a peaceful, happy, united world—but so many walls block our way. ... All nations, all of you, must attend God, our Creator, our Heavenly Parent, in your nations in order for world peace to come.”

There was a unanimous agreement that universal principles based on compassion, empathy and religious tolerance must be the bedrock on which to advance a world of lasting peace, and that peaceful coexistence and shared values among the people of the world are the way to confront the critical issues that we face on the local, national, regional and global levels. The participants departed World Summit 2017 with an empowering sense that we have successfully entered a new era of hope. ♦

— Written by UPF International



GROUP PHOTO WITH DR. HAK JA HAN MOON AND THE INTERNATIONAL CO-CHAIRS OF IAPP HON. DAN BURTON AND HON. JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.



The 2017 Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony

February 3, 2017 10a.m. Lotte Hotel World, Crystal Ballroom



Sunhak Peace Prize Awarded at World Summit

Seoul, Korea | February 3, 2017

Two persons who have been a godsend to countless refugees were awarded the Sunhak Peace Prize during World Summit 2017 on February 3, 2017.

Dr. Gino Strada, founder of Emergency, an organization that provides medical and surgical care in Africa and the Middle East to civilian victims of war, and **Dr. Sakena Yacoobi**, founder of the Afghan Institute for Learning, which provides refugee-educational programs in Afghanistan, were the recipients of the prize in its second year.

More than 700 dignitaries from 120 nations, including current and former presidents, vice presidents, and leaders of parliament, academia, business, media and religion, attended the emotional ceremony held at the Lotte World Hotel in Seoul on February 3, 2017, the third day of the World Summit.

The Sunhak Peace Prize was formally proposed on February 20, 2013, by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who also co-founded UPF. The prize honors the legacy of her husband, the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, who dedicated his life to realizing world peace, prosperity and coexistence.

Dr. Il Sik Hong, a former president of Korea University and chair of the Seoul-based Sunhak Peace Prize selection committee, initially announced the two winners on November 29, 2016, at an awards banquet

held during a UPF International Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

While the first Sunhak Peace Prize, awarded in 2015, dealt with climate change and the food crisis, the 2017 Sunhak prize focuses on the refugee crisis. The peace prize, Dr. Hong said, is awarded to “those who have dedicated their lives in service to humanity and the noble ideal of peace.” Dr. Strada and Dr. Yacoobi represent the “heroes of today,” who go beyond national borders to express love and service to humanity, he said.

In his welcoming address, Dr. Hong congratulated this year’s laureates, “two outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to realizing peace for the sake of humanity.” Regarding the “record-breaking global refugee crisis,” he said, “We must approach and understand this issue from the higher vantage point, that is, the history of civilizations. Diaspora, throughout the ages, has been one of the oldest adaptation strategies of humankind. Migration is a strategy for survival. Hence, going forward, migration will be an even more important issue in the effort to establish a world of peace for all.”

The laureates “have devoted their lives to providing basic and fundamental solutions to the refugee crisis,” Dr. Hong said. “In order for the world to become a peaceful community, no one should be excluded from the right to medical aid and education. The world in the 21st century must overcome an order that is based on the logic of force, which begets enmity, conflict and



DR. GINO STRADA RECEIVES THE SUNHAK PLAQUE



DR. SAKENA YACOABI RECEIVES THE SUNHAK PLAQUE

discord, and establish itself as a community of peace and coexistence, reconciliation and cooperation based on universal principles.”

After the showing of videos especially created about the laureates and their work, Dr. Strada and Dr. Yacoobi each received a beautiful plaque and medal from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and Dr. Hong.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Gino Strada thanked the hosts for their work for peace and dialogue in the name of the human family. There is a compelling need to build a better world, he stated. Dr. Strada described the results of war that he has seen over the past three decades in many war-torn countries. The organization that he founded, Emergency, provides free, high-quality treatment.

Most people in the world do not have contact with war or any experience with the lack of medical treatment. “For most of us they seem so far and alien from our daily life. It is so easy to listen to the news without realizing that after every bomb, after every shell, there are people struggling to survive,” he said. Ninety percent of the victims of wars are civilians, “people equal to us,” Dr. Strada said. Last year more than 60 million people were forced to leave their homes, looking for protection and safety. He called on world citizens “to take action and conquer peace.”

In accepting the prize, Dr. Sakena Yacoobi spoke about her work and the vision that inspired her. She said the purpose of this prize is to remember the ideology of

peace as taught and practiced by Rev. and Mrs. Moon: “We are one family under God.”

Dr. Yacoobi expressed outrage at the refugee situation today. She herself experienced life as a refugee. “I know how the refugees feel: They lost everything, loved ones, their dignity and resilience. ... No one wants to leave, but when war breaks out, people are forced to leave.” Refugees who fled their homes are being forced to return to their countries because the world is not accepting them, she said. “People in Afghanistan are human beings just like anyone else. They need help.” Dr. Yacoobi called for education programs that teach “wisdom, love, dignity, responsibility, and cooperation.”

H.E. Anote Tong, one of the two recipients of the first Sunhak Peace Prize in 2015, congratulated Dr. Strada and Dr. Yacoobi, thanking them for their “lifelong dedication to the well-being of refugees and war victims.” The former president (2003-2016) of the Republic of Kiribati said that their accomplishments are very much in the spirit of the UPF founders’ vision to build “One Family under God” and that their efforts complement the founders’ global work for peace and development.

President Tong congratulated the participants of the World Summit for their contributions to peace. He reflected on his own experience of receiving the previous peace prize for his work in educating the world about the danger of climate change. President Tong described climate change as “the most significant moral challenge for humanity. We’re fighting against ourselves, not another nation.” The nations of the world have a moral obligation to help one another, he said, and in closing, “Peace starts within us; then you can pass it on.”

The awards ceremony was an exquisite affair with pomp and circumstance. The entertainment included the world-famous Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet of Korea, as well as Korean entertainers Ms. Kolleen Park and Mr. Jaerim Choi. The stage was well designed with bright colors and backdrops. The high-quality videos about the laureates were professional and inspirational. ♦

— Written by UPF International





2017 INTERRELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Seoul, Korea | November 10-14, 2017

Religious leaders and representatives of faith-based organizations concluded an international conference co-hosted by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLCL). The Interreligious Leadership Conference (IRLC) assembled from November 10 to 14, 2017, at the Lotte Hotel World to discuss “The Responsibility of Religious Leaders and Faith-Based Organizations in Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time.”

Main highlights:

1. The conference brought together a select group of approximately 400 religious leaders and representatives of faith-based organizations from 60 nations to dialogue, not on matters of doctrine but on issues of mutual concern and how we can collaborate to bring about peace for the 7.6 billion people in the world.
2. The 2017 Global Rally for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula, which took place on November 11 at the Seoul World Cup Stadium, brought together 80,000 people.



A LIGHTHEARTED MOMENT AT THE CONFERENCE

Ambassador R. James Woolsey Jr., a former director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, said: “We never forget that what divides North and South in this country is an artificial and arbitrary political wall of tyranny. All the men, women and children of the Korean Peninsula are one people, and they have been for some 4,000 years. ... You have existed as one family since the dawn of recorded history, and you will continue as one family for millennia to come.” Other speakers included: **Bishop Don Meares**, Evangelical Cathedral (USA); **Archbishop Dr. Johannes Ndanga**, Apostolic Christian Council (Zimbabwe); and **Rev. Dr. Marcus Braybrooke**, World Congress of Faiths (UK).

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founder of UPF and ACLCL, delivered the keynote speech, declaring that our hope is to see North and South Korea become one, and to live in that peaceful, unified country. This hope is something that cannot be achieved through political power, religious power or the power of an ideology, Dr. Moon said. This can be resolved only by people leading a life of true love for the sake of others, she declared.

3. A resolution to establish the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) was unanimously endorsed. The new association “affirms the unique and essential role that religions are called to play in bringing about a world of lasting peace, a world in which people of all nationalities, ethnicities, races, cultures, and worldviews live together in mutual respect, harmony and cooperation, as one family under God.”

More than 60 speakers addressed many of the world’s crises, including: poverty, lack of education, disease, terrorism, climate change, population growth, and human and drug trafficking. More current issues also were addressed, such as the Rohingya Muslim refugees



from Myanmar and Europe’s migrant crisis, but most centrally, the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Several faith-based organizations were highlighted, including: the Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Confederation for Religious Freedom, Conscience and Worship of Colombia, which helped broker a peace agreement between the government and the FARC leftist rebel group; and the Geneva Spiritual Appeal.

As a response to these global crises, UPF presentations were given on various relief and humanitarian programs, service-learning projects, and character education programs, including: International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), Northeast Asia Peace Initiative (NEPI), Peace Road, Sunhak Peace Prize, Youth and Students for Peace, Korean Religions Association, Women’s Federation for World Peace, and the Interfaith Blessing Movement.

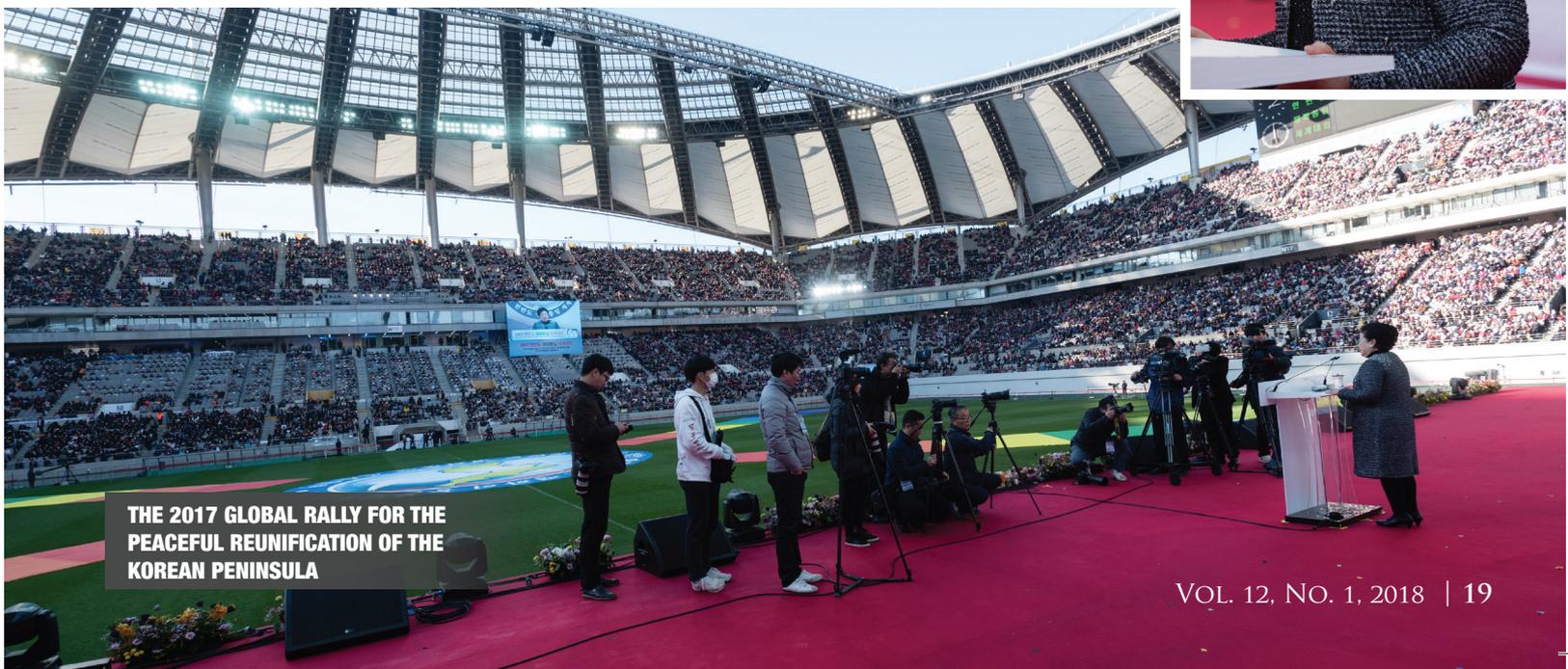
Several themes were common to these presentations: Lasting peace will not be achieved through political, diplomatic and economic efforts alone. A just and lasting peace among all peoples and with all nations will only be built centered on spiritual values when absolute love and living for the sake of others are practiced.

Further: The key to lasting peace is leaders who are honest and trustworthy and have sound moral and ethical principles that are universal and transcend national boundaries. And in a world that grows smaller and more connected every day, leaders need a global, altruistic perspective.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948. The IRLC discussed the need to support the United Nations and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by partnering with faith-based organizations that work internationally: the Parliament of the World’s Religions, or Religions for Peace, the King Abdullah International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, or United Religions Initiative, etc.

Participants called for a worldwide recognition that the standard of true ethics upholds understanding, tolerance, and the fulfillment of human potential. The religious leaders said we must find ways to positively influence young people, women and those in leadership positions. Knowledge based only on secular thinking is influenced by special interests and narrow-minded agendas and is doomed to temporal, short-term solutions, but sacred wisdom that dates back thousands of years is rooted in God’s unconditional love.

True leadership recognizes God as eternal, unchanging, absolute and unique. The starting point toward resolving the problems faced by humankind requires a perspective and vision based upon universal, shared values such as benevolence, helpfulness, honesty, forgiveness, loyalty, responsibility,



THE 2017 GLOBAL RALLY FOR THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA

INTERRELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

friendship and humility. The way to true peace begins with the recognition that humanity is created in the image of God and that therefore people of all races, colors, religions, nationalities, creeds and genders have innate divine and spiritual value.

Participants called upon the world's religious leaders to become role models, to practice the Golden Rule and cultivate the quality of



UPF CO-FOUNDER DR. HAK JA HAN MOON ADDS HER SIGNATURE TO THE IAPD RESOLUTION.



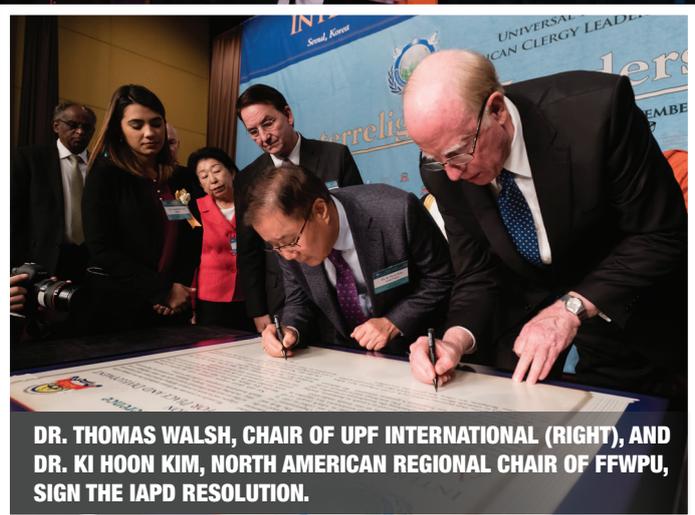
SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE IN SEOUL, KOREA.

empathy by living for the sake of others, whether a neighbor who lives across the street or across the national border. The responsibility and mission of religious leaders and faith-based organizations is to practice absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience, and to educate the leaders of our nations and our youth to work in every way possible toward building one global family centered upon the unconditional love of God.

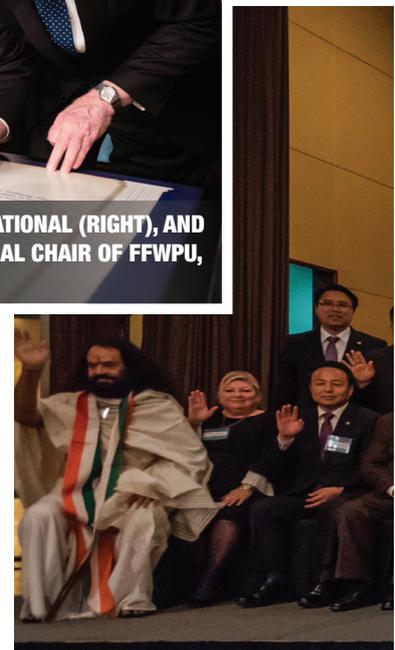
In terms of the contribution of religious leaders and faith-based organizations and ways to resolve conflict, many recommendations were discussed and presented. Two are highlighted below:

Dr. Elmar Kuhn, the dean of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Austria, outlined six common gateways of religious contributions to society:

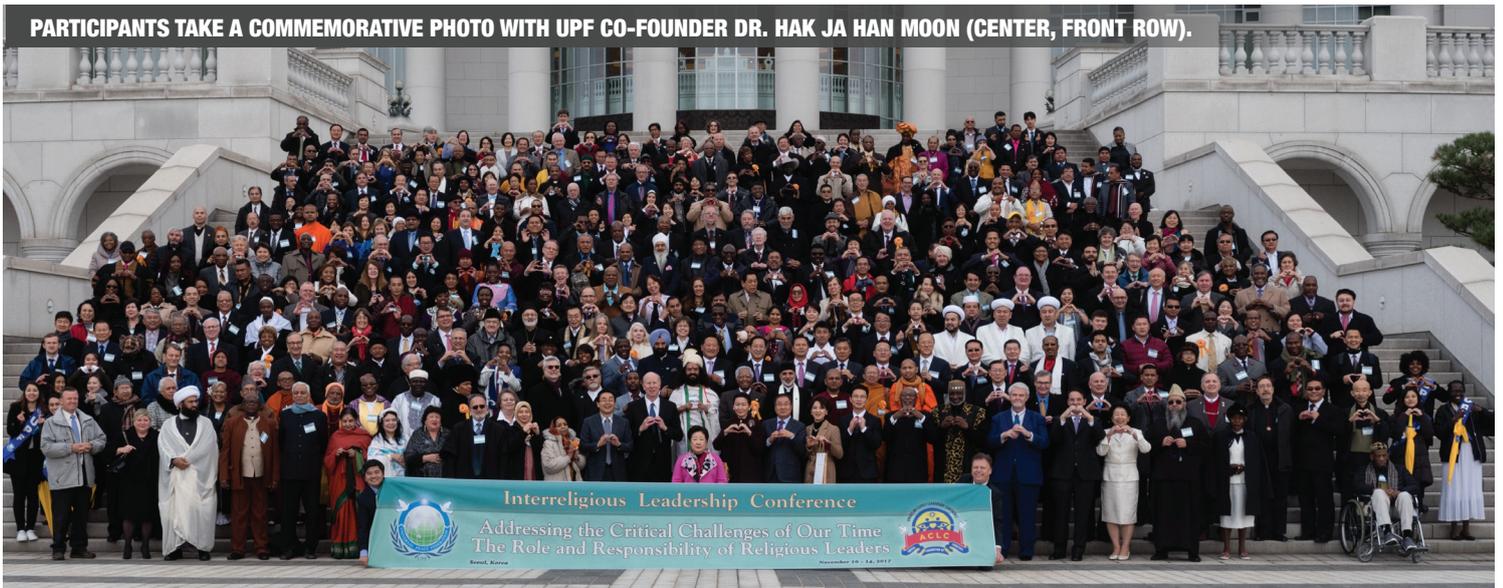
- True thoughts (authentic knowledge and practice of faith, dedicated to rationality and emotion, exchange with natural science)
- Purification techniques (such as fasting periods)



DR. THOMAS WALSH, CHAIR OF UPF INTERNATIONAL (RIGHT), AND DR. KI HOON KIM, NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CHAIR OF FFWPU, SIGN THE IAPD RESOLUTION.



PARTICIPANTS TAKE A COMMEMORATIVE PHOTO WITH UPF CO-FOUNDER DR. HAK JA HAN MOON (CENTER, FRONT ROW).



- Unconditional giving (works of mercy)
- Experience of transcendence
- Mindfulness and mantra
- Physical activities (prayer position, yoga)

Dr. S.B. Radebe Mbiza, prophet, the Revelation Church of God, South Africa, gave five keys to resolving religious conflict:

- Embrace spirituality as universal above any religion or doctrine
- Exercise love and humility
- Focus on the end goal of connecting to God
- Practice acceptance and tolerance
- Encourage constant engagement between religious leaders on issues of spirituality

Conclusion

The 2017 Interreligious Leadership Conference was a meaningful gathering experience. It generated enthusiasm through interaction of different cultures and interreligious

dialogue of people of different faiths. It became quickly apparent, at both the individual and institutional level, that it is important to remain true to our own beliefs and that we should respect the beliefs of others. Though the religions and faith-based organizations make significant contributions, new levels of outreach are accessed when our energies are pooled together. As one participant said: “Our strength is and will be our unity.”

The four-day program successfully concluded: (1) the IRLC 2017, (2) the Rally for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula, and (3) resolved to establish the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD). Participants described the events as “a time of renewal and awakening” and affirmed that religious leaders and faith-based organizations must work together with one voice to address the critical challenges of our time and truly transform this world. ♦

— Written by UPF International



SPEAKERS AT THE INTERRELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WITH THE SIGNED RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IAPD.

IAPP LAUNCHED IN CANADA

Ottawa, Canada | October 31, 2017

The Canadian chapter of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) was inaugurated on October 31, 2017 at the Sir John A. MacDonal Building on Parliament Hill in the capital, Ottawa. The event was attended by 21 parliamentarians, representing all the political parties in Canada, as well as by 150 leaders of civil society, religion and various organizations from across the country.

The one-day conference, entitled “Reaching Indigenous Youth,” focused on an urgent social and political issue in Canada: indigenous youth at very high risk for drug and alcohol abuse and suicide. The event was held in a magnificent chamber in the Sir John A. MacDonal Building thanks to the gracious sponsorship of Hon. Anita Vandenberg, a member of Canada’s Parliament. Hon. Vandenberg greeted the audience and read a message from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who referred to the primacy of relations between the Canadian government and the indigenous population.

Prime Minister Trudeau addressed this issue at the UN General Assembly in September 2017 and a month before, in August 2017, he announced two new departments would be established within the Canadian government: a Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations



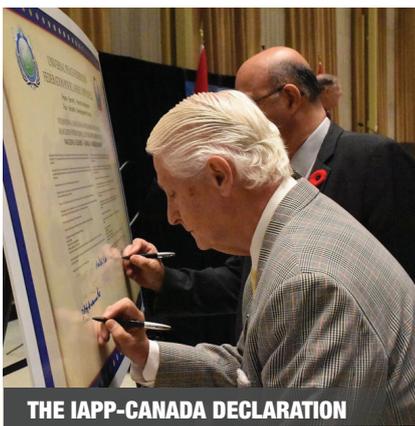
HON. ANITA VANDENBELD, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

and Northern Affairs, and a Department of Indigenous Services.

The master of ceremonies was one of Canada’s most well-known and respected former parliamentarians, Hon. Jean Augustine. A long-time Ambassador for Peace, Hon. Augustine was the first woman of color elected to the Parliament of Canada. She is known as a champion of equality, diversity and inclusion throughout Canada and around the world, bringing various parties and participants together with her dignity, charm, humor and sensitivity.

The meeting opened with a traditional Anishinaabe welcome and prayer by indigenous drummer, Barbara Hill, and Elder Albert Dumont (“South Wind”). It is now an established tradition at many government meetings in Canada to begin with an acknowledgement of the indigenous people, on whose traditional territories Canadians live and work.

Hon. Robert-Falcon Ouellette, an indigenous member of parliament from Winnipeg, served as moderator of the panel, which included youth leaders of the indigenous community. The panel addressed the question: “Is Cultural Genocide to



THE IAPP-CANADA DECLARATION



PANEL DISCUSSION



DR. WALSH SHARES SLIDES OF IAPP LAUNCHINGS IN MANY COUNTRIES

IAPP LAUNCHED IN COLOMBIA

Bogotá, Colombia | August 15, 2017

The national inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) was held in Luis Carlos Galán Hall in the Congress of the Republic of Colombia.

A total of 44 participants, including 10 parliamentarians, as well as religious and government leaders, attended the program, which took place on the evening of August 15, 2017.

UPF-Latin America regional chair, Rev. Sang Suk Kim, and UPF-South America president, Rev. Dong Mo Shin, spoke about the purpose of the IAPP.

Vice president of Colombia's House of Representatives and Ambassador for Peace, Dr. Lina María Barrera, also gave remarks in which she emphasized the importance of creating initiatives, such as the IAPP, that bring together parliamentarians from around the world to help build a world of peace.

During the program, everyone enjoyed dinner, and the atmosphere was warm and harmonious. ♦

— *Written by UPF-Colombia*

Blame for the Situation of Indigenous Youth?" The panelists were Mr. Michael Swinwood, legal counsel to Elders Without Borders; Ms. Gabrielle Fayant, an indigenous activist and a radio talk show host; Mr. Mitch Huguenin, a graduate of Trent University; and Mr. Phillip Comeau, who is originally from Nunavut in northern Canada and serves as the education coordinator for Tungasuvvingat Inuit, an Inuit support center in the Ottawa region.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, chair of UPF International, gave a presentation on the IAPP, an initiative that was inspired by the founders of UPF. The signing of the declaration launching the IAPP-Canada by parliamentarians and other participants followed.

The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Dawn Lavell-Harvard, a member of the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments, scholar and past president of the Native Women's Association of Canada. Her impassioned presentation on how to solve the plight of the indigenous people of Canada moved the audience to tears.

With the leadership of Dr. Moonshik Kim, chair of UPF-Canada, and with the strong collaboration between the Canadian UPF team and the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), the event was a tremendous success. ♦

— *Written by UPF-Canada*



LUIS CARLOS GALÁN HALL IN THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA



DR. LINA MARÍA BARRERA

IAPP LAUNCHED IN AUSTRALIA

Bogotá, Colombia | August 19, 2017



The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) was inaugurated in Australia on August 19, 2017 at an event attended by more than 80 dignitaries.

The participants included local Sydney Ambassadors for Peace and more than 20 guests from the states of Victoria, Queensland, and Australian Capital Territory as well as from the Pacific island nations of Vanuatu and Fiji.

The morning session was held at the Oceania Peace Embassy with Jynene Helland of UPF as the emcee. Aboriginal elder Pearl Wymarra gave the welcome-to-country prayer, an Aboriginal tradition. This was followed by welcoming remarks from Rev. Shang Seon Park, the UPF chair of the Oceania region.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, the chair of UPF International, gave an impressive overview of UPF and the worldwide IAPP initiative. Hon. David Clarke, a member of the Legislative Council, the upper house of the New South Wales Parliament, presented a highly inspiring introduction to the work of UPF.

John Bellavance, the vice president of UPF-Australia, spoke on “Values in Leadership,” explaining how IAPP transcends party politics and focuses on “head-wing” thought, which is based on universal moral, ethical and spiritual values.

After a break, the morning session continued with a presentation by UPF-Australia President Greg Stone on “Family Values and World Peace.” He highlighted the profound importance of the family as the essential foundational building block of a peaceful and prosperous society, nation and world.

Anne Bellavance, president of the Australian chapter of Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an affiliated organization, as well as the vice president for WFWP of Oceania, delivered a message titled “A Conversation about Parity.” Her talk stressed the need to secure equal opportunities for women in all fields and described the critical roles that women need to play if we are to achieve peace.

Mica Camara, the Oceania youth director for Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), another affiliated organization, gave an overview of the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace, a new initiative established by UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

After lunch at the Peace Embassy, the participants were taken by bus to the Parliament of New South Wales for the afternoon session, where the formal inauguration of the Australian



AFTERNOON SESSION AT THE PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES



chapter of the IAPP was held in the beautiful Jubilee Room.

The emcee for the afternoon session was Greg Stone. After Rev. Shang Seon Park welcomed everyone, Dr. Thomas Walsh explained in more detail the significance and role of IAPP.

This was followed by a panel discussion chaired by the host of the afternoon session, Hon. David Clarke. Other panelists were Hon. Rachel Carling-Jenkins, a member of the Legislative Council of Victoria state; Rev. Hon. Fred Nile and Hon. Lou Amato, both members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales; Hon. Iliesa Delana, the assistant minister for youth and sports of Fiji; and Hon. Andrew Napuat, a member of Vanuatu's Parliament. A message from Hon. Paul Green, a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council, was read aloud.

The panel discussion was vibrant and inspiring, with many of the participants mentioning God and speaking about the need for strong family values and righteous, moral leadership in Australia and elsewhere. This was followed by a question-and-answer session, in which the audience also offered comments.

Finally, the resolution for the formation of IAPP-Australia was signed by all, and the program concluded with a group photo, afternoon tea and informal discussion.

Everyone seemed to be very inspired by the quality of the speeches and their high moral tone, as well as by the magnificent venue, the oldest parliament building in Australia, which was highly appropriate for the occasion. ♦

— Written by UPF-Australia



PARTNERSHIPS



New York, United States | May 25, 2017

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth was the theme of a gala celebration of Africa Day.

Organized by the African Union (AU) in partnership with UPF and the United Nations African Ambassadors Spouses Group (UNAASG), the event was held on May 25, 2017, at the Manhattan Center.

H.E. Ambassador Tete Antonio, the permanent observer of the Mission of the African Union, opened the program by expressing warm gratitude for all who worked to create this “joyful party.” He referred to Taj Hamad, the vice president of UPF International, as the “icon of Africa Day” for his years of support for the anniversary of the Africa Union.

On behalf of African Union Commission Chair Moussa Faki, who could not attend the event, Ambassador Antonio also conveyed a message of “unity, embracing our youth and ending marginalization of Africa.”



H.E. Mamadi Touré, the permanent representative of Guinea to the UN, declared that Africa has all the resources needed and, with a united commitment to “our common values and destiny,” Africa’s emergence is entirely possible.

The other distinguished speakers included Madame Elise Andrianarivelo, the president of UNAASG and the wife of the permanent representative of Madagascar to the UN; and H.E. Marcel Amon Tanoh, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of Cote D’Ivoire.

The program moved to lively entertainment and a lavish buffet of dishes from every country of Africa. And, true to Ambassador Antonio’s words, this “joyful party” could not end without warm conversations, wonderful music and enthusiastic dancing. ♦

— Written by UPF International



WOMEN RISING WITH SPIRITUALITY AND ETHICS AT THE UN



MS. CATHY TOWLE, MRS. GENIE KAGAWA, SWAMINI SRI LALITAMBIKA DEVI, MS. YVONNE LODICO, MRS. TSU-WEI CHANG, MS. GUNJAN GOEL

New York, United States | March 16, 2017

A program titled “Women’s Global Leadership, Spirituality and Ethics” was held at the United Nations during the 61st Annual Commission on the Status of Women.

The event, held on March 16, 2017, by the Women Rising Working Group of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns-New York (CSVGC-NY), was co-sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI Glocha), Women’s Federation for World Peace International, and Lalitamba Mandiram.

In today’s complex, volatile world, torn by private and public violence, there is no greater need than for women to step forward in leadership to project vision and action based on spirituality, ethics and values. The emphasis on spirituality and values plays an essential role in the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals as an aspect of development, with a lens for women and men, girls and boys. It leads to greater connectedness and a world of more personal and collective peace by honoring the human condition and universal human dignity. This holistic approach

transcends religion and bridges borders, cultures, languages, race, economics and traditions. It creates resilience, bonding, and strength, giving meaning to life, even amid hardships and challenges.

The Panel Presentation was facilitated by moderator **Ms. Cathy Towle**, the Executive Council officer of CSVGC-NY, with **Mrs. Genie Kagawa**, president of the CSVGC-NY, giving welcoming remarks. **Swamini Sri Lalitambika Devi** began the program with a heartfelt meditation honoring the feminine and women’s qualities, followed by a number of expert panelists with extensive and accomplished careers at the United Nations working for women’s issues:

- **Ms. Yvonne Lodico** is the founder and president of Grace Initiative and served 15 years with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, and UN peacekeeping missions. She has been the head of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), New York Office.
- **Mrs. Tsu-Wei Chang** is the former president of the UN Women’s Guild, and has spent 30 years in the UN Secretariat of Women’s Affairs.
- **Ms. Gunjan Goel**, the president of the Global Chamber of Commerce and the consul officer for the Liberian Consulate, spoke dynamically as a youth leader on the qualities that spirituality brings to leadership, and to women’s concerns in particular.

The Panel Presentation was followed by an interactive discussion and questions and answers. ♦

— Written by Genie Kagawa,
director of UPF Executive Office



MS. GUNJAN GOEL SPEAKS ABOUT SPIRITUALITY



Family capital was the theme of a program held by UPF during the 2017 UN Commission for Social Development.

The program, held on February 3 at the African Union offices, was titled “*Family Capital and the SDGs: The Family as the Driver of Social Development*.” This event was based on the recent publication of the book **Family Capital and the SDGs: Implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals**. Several of the authors who had contributed to the book spoke at the program.

The editor of the book, Susan Roylance of the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, opened the event by explaining “family capital” as the valuable combined resources and talents of the family unit. These resources and talents nurture children and provide the necessities of life for family members and also help achieve the most important global goals.

Next to speak was her husband, Robert Roylance, an expert on agriculture, who consolidated his talk from his three chapters related to increasing productivity for family farms, especially in the poorest of areas. Mr. Roylance's presentation showed the dramatic results that families achieved when utilizing his methods. In the most practical ways, his methods reduced and

eradicated hunger and poverty family by family, he said (SDG Targets 1, 2 and 15).

Lynn Walsh, the director of UPF's Office of Marriage and Family Education, described how a stable family structure, marital commitment and biological parent-child ties lower the risk of domestic violence and child abuse (SDG Target 5).

Mariah Fralick of Sustainable Families International, who also served as the program's moderator, was the next speaker. Mrs. Fralick spoke about her family's positive experience of caring for a refugee family who had settled in their community. As refugee families will more easily receive help from people whom they can trust, Mrs. Fralick found that both her family and the refugee family benefited greatly by spending time together and becoming genuine friends (Target 10.7).

The final speaker, Vincenzina Santoro of the American Family Association, spoke from an economist's point of view about the impact of family remittances sent to family members in poorer areas and the importance of each country having ownership, control and management of their development process. Ms. Santoro, conveying the crucial contribution of family businesses to the economy, gave an example of the Nutella family business, which has brought prosperity and enjoyment to communities and people around the world (Targets 12 and 17).

Besides the co-sponsorship of all the NGOs represented by the speakers, United Families International and the UN NGO Committee on the Family, NY, supported this successful, well attended event. ♦

— Written by Lynn Walsh,
Director, UPF Office of
Marriage and Family Education



MIDDLE EAST AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE GATHER IN ROME FOR PEACE PRINCIPLES SEMINAR

Rome, Italy | June 30 - July 3, 2017

A recent government minister said, “I need a retreat.” When he arrived at Colle Mattia, located in the hills overlooking Rome, he realized he had come to the right place. UPF-Middle East had invited Ambassadors for Peace from the region to a seminar on the principles underlying UPF’s approach to peace. The participants traveled from Morocco and Malta, and from Jordan, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates for the three-day event, which took place from June 30 to July 3, 2017.

This was the third in a series of UPF Ambassadors for Peace advanced seminars on “Applying the Principle: Practical Solutions for the Middle East” the chapter has organized. In contrast to UPF’s larger conferences, this program offered an opportunity for discussion and reflection, which was helped by the warm and bright sunshine in Rome and the quiet of the vineyards that surround the area. The Ambassadors for Peace were doctors, parliamentarians, peace activists; but, above all, they are human beings. While we are determined and are involved in intense efforts to tackle the world’s problems, we all know that peace starts with me—with myself and my family. One current parliamentarian spoke of being like a “candle in the wind.” He was referring to the constant effort required to maintain integrity

and positive energy in the face of the moral confusion and multiple challenges that exist in public life.

UPF representatives presented principles and models of good relationships and healthy families and how to apply these principles to tackle conflict, to heal and to rebuild peace at all levels—from the individual to the world, but, most importantly, in the family. A presentation was given on the life of UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon that provided striking examples of his devotion to God’s work of building a peaceful world.

The presentations were interspersed with sessions where the participants could speak about their own approach to building peace. Some showed presentations on the work they have done and ideas they have, while others took a more personal approach. These sessions also allowed time to look together at ideas and plans for common projects, such as launching the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) in different nations. As the hours passed, however, it became evident that the “advanced” element of this seminar is not so much a matter of breadth of information as of depth of heart.

Bringing Europeans and Middle Easterners together provided good opportunities for exchange and impetus for future cooperation. One evening was set aside for meetings between Italian and Middle Eastern Ambassadors for Peace.

PARTICIPANTS LISTEN TO A LEBANESE AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE PRESENTS HIS PROJECT



“ THIS SEMINAR INCREASED MY ENTHUSIASM FOR THINKING ABOUT HOW TO SPREAD PEACE IN MY COUNTRY. ”



In addition to the presentations there was time for a dinner together. The liveliest table was the Moroccan one, where Ambassadors for Peace who were invited from Morocco met with Moroccan residents in Italy who are active in public and political life. Parliamentarians from Morocco, Malta, Italy and Jordan took part in that evening’s discussions. Before leaving, a Lebanese peace activist was able to visit the Italian parliament and discuss plans there.

At the end of the second full day, everyone visited nearby Frascati, a town located on the Alban Hills 12 miles (20 kilometers) southeast of Rome that has a magnificent view of the city.

The next day, those who had evening departures had the chance to enjoy a walk through Rome’s historic center, followed by a final lunch back at the Colle Mattia.

As the following comments from the participants illustrate, the participants returned home enlightened and empowered, with clearer ideas on how to advance peace and a greater sense that we really can have a substantial impact in the Middle East:



“[This seminar] increased my enthusiasm for thinking about how to spread peace in my country.”

“It was a really enlightening and empowering experience and...I will definitely do my best to achieve harmony in order to create peace around me and to spread it at both the micro and macro levels.”

“The presentations and speeches...were very interesting and moving. Many times I had tears in my eyes... My participation in this seminar [inspires me] for the future. It gives me power to do more and to spread peace [every day].” ♦

— Written by David Fraser-Harris, secretary general, UPF-Middle East



UPF HOLDS PARLIAMENTARIAN DAY IN DR CONGO

Kinshasa, DR Congo | June 17, 2017

UPF in the Democratic Republic of the Congo organized a Parliamentarian Day inside the Parliament, the national symbol of democracy.

More than 200 participants attended the event on June 17, 2017, about half of whom were members of parliament. On that occasion, 67 MPs were appointed as Ambassadors for Peace, including Hon. Berocan Keraure Nono, the rapporteur of the National Assembly.

The DR Congo chapter of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) had its inauguration at the Palace of the People, the home of the National Assembly, on January 21, 2017.

Just after that event, the National Assembly office requested UPF to organize a Parliamentarian Day as a way to introduce the IAPP to a larger group of members of parliament.

A few days after this meeting, 33 more parliamentarians were scheduled to receive

Ambassador for Peace certificates during a press conference organized by the Hon. Dr. Nkumu Frey Lungula, the chair of the DR Congo chapter of IAPP as well as an Ambassador for Peace.

One big surprise was the presence of H.E. Steve Mbikay, the minister of higher education and a member of the central government, who himself has been appointed as an Ambassador for Peace.

This Parliamentarian Day event was broadcast by the national TV channel plus several local TV channels belonging to some VIPs already appointed as Ambassadors for Peace during the National Network of Journalists for Peace inauguration held on May 6, 2017 in Kinshasa. ♦

— Written by Mike Samuel Makenda, director, Media Office, UPF-DR Congo

“ THIS PARLIAMENTARIAN DAY EVENT WAS BROADCAST BY THE NATIONAL TV CHANNEL PLUS SEVERAL LOCAL TV CHANNELS. ”



MORE THAN 200 DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS LISTENING TO THE FOUNDERS ADDRESS ON THE IAPP



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