

Korean Leadership Conference Breaks New Ground

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Representatives of the Women's Federation for World Peace USA and Europe pose with WFWP International President Dr. Lan Young Moon at the International Leadership Conference (ILC).

No one could have predicted what was about to occur at this most recent International Leadership Conference (ILC) and in related events in Korea on the occasion of the First Anniversary of Father Moon's Ascension, which our small Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) U.S. team was able to participate in during the end of August 2013.

It was truly an international gathering extraordinaire and unprecedented! Speakers, participants, and longtime leaders and members of the Unification movement came together to testify about True Father and commemorate his life, his teachings, his legacy, and the global impact he has had on history and still has on thousands of people. The conference also highlighted in an unprecedented way the role and work of Mother Moon, as Father's lifelong, loyal, and sacrificial partner for 52 years, without whom he would not have been able to accomplish the nearly impossible.



WFWP USA President Angelika Selle (left) poses with fellow WFWP representatives Mrs. Jan DuPlain (center) and Mrs. Nancy Bulow (right) at the commemoratives festivities for the Memorial Ceremony of Sun Myung Moon's Ascension in Korea.

Why was this conference unprecedented and extraordinary? For several reasons: For one, there was a wonderful collaboration between Universal Peace Federation (UPF), WFWP, and Family Federation for World Peace Unification (FFWPU) that brought forth a new type of balance. In the words of one participant, there was a "sweetness" to the conference.

Another point was the fact that the teaching itself, the Divine Principle, was shared directly with all participants, members and non-members alike. So was the purpose and meaning of the Holy Blessing of Marriage. The many projects of all the providential organizations were explained, bringing home the fact that there is an overall vision and commission, a common root with different branches, but all with the same goal: making real God's dream of one global family, a world of peace.

Women's Leadership Featured at ILC

A third point was that women and WFWP International were featured more in depth and given the opportunity to "show and tell" the amazing work of women over the last 20 years, which was a surprise to many. Several men in the audience later expressed their amazement over and respect for WFWP and its substantial accomplishments over the last two decades.

Fourth, the audience was exposed to a variety of deep and stirring personal testimonies from many long-term friends of the Unification movement. They spoke of how Father Moon's life and teaching impacted theirs. Some of them were rather spiritual in nature, such as one by the **Hon. Georgina de Venecia**, a member of the Philippine House of Representatives,

and her husband **Hon. Jose de Venecia**, former speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, who lost their daughter in a house fire. She said, “That tragedy shattered my soul, I actually wanted to die.” After learning from a Unificationist elder that their daughter is alive and well in the spiritual world they were able to understand one of Father and Mother Moon’s most profound teachings, that death does not end a loving relationship. She was able to let her daughter go from her grieving heart. She said, “I began to dream again.”

We felt so much the presence of Father Moon in everything, as if he was personally conducting the conference and interested in every detail testifying to the liberation of God’s suffering heart through his life and teachings. It was truly astonishing.

On the morning of the opening session, Rev. Kwon Jin Moon delivered the Founder’s Keynote Address on behalf of True Mother with such passion and emotion, strength and conviction, holding back tears throughout his delivery. It was just riveting! He received a standing ovation, as he also shared a few words from his heart. He reflected on his late older brother, Hyo Jin Moon, whom he admired for his loyalty toward his father and his understanding of the burden of leadership their father and now the children and ourselves must choose to shoulder.



Representatives of WFWP hosted a panel discussion at the ILC, which garnered rave reviews from audience members.

Kwon Jin Moon’s Speech

He said that this is a new age we live in, one which is not about positions. What we need to do now, he said, is to change our mindset from that of a believer to a true son and daughter, who can shed a tear for every living being and for the world, as his Father did. “It is wonderful,” he said, “that we are now the people who can do that.” He ended by quoting from memory a lengthy portion of the famous St. Crispin’s Day Speech from Shakespeare’s Henry V, explaining that great people are those who give up their titles and move on to a higher level of a true son and daughter, uplift the people they look after, to become true sons and daughters and true brothers and sisters, so that all can bring about an era of peace.

It was a stirring, electrifying and moving speech. Kwon Jin Moon, the fourth son of Father and Mother Moon, skillfully conveyed every nuance of emotion, as he described his own father, his life for God and humanity and his sacrificial life course.

What moved me personally were the profound prayers, heartfelt messages from faith leaders, government officials -- men and women alike. It felt balanced and complete.

Many of the participants who have known our movement through one of the organizations expressed that for the first time they “got it.” That is, they saw the whole picture, how the philosophy of peace is translated into action through each and every one of the organizations and projects that were introduced and presented.

All was leading up to the highlight, the actual Day of Commemoration of True Father’s ascension, which was held in the Cheong Shim Peace World Stadium in Chung Pyung on August 23, 2013. Many expected a rather somber experience, but the opposite was true. The memories, evoked by high-tech media footage of True Father’s life, as well as that of True Mother, brought tears to our eyes, as we could feel the depth of their love and heart (*Shim Jung*) for all of us. The experience was so strong. There was an inner presence of True Father in me, which I had never felt before.

After all the official ceremonies, dramatic videos of Father’s life, and many moving speakers, Mother Moon addressed the gathering of 25,000. “As we watch these videos of my late husband,” she said, “we are moved in our hearts. It truly brings us together all around the world. Today we truly have become one.” And we could feel it indeed.