

## IAPD and Korea Religions Association's Prayer Rally for a Heavenly Unified Korea

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The Korea Religions Association hosted the IAPD Inter-religious Prayer Rally for a Heavenly Unified Korea at Imjingak in Gyeonggi-do, Paju.

The rally featured prominent figures including Lee Hyun-young, President of the Korea Religions Association; Co-Chairman Reverend John Jackson from the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC); Archbishop Johannes Ndanga, President of the Apostolic Christian Union of Zimbabwe; Venerable Jinwon, head monk of the Chilbong Temple of the Korean Buddhism Taego Order; Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International; Song Gwang-seok, President of FFWPU-Korea; and Hwang Sun-jo, Chairman of the National Unification Movement of Korea. They were joined by 300 members from the Inter-religious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD).



The event began with an opening declaration by Vice President Hong Yun-jong of the Korea Religions Association and featured a North-South unification prayer by Venerable Jinwon. Commitment statements for a Heavenly Unified Korea were made by Chairman Lee Hyun-young, Reverend John Jackson, and Archbishop Johannes Ndanga. The rally also included welcome speeches by Chairman Yang Chang-shik and President Song Gwang-seok, a congratulatory speech by Chairman Hwang Sun-jo, and a choral performance of the song: "Arirang". Participants engaged in joint prayer, launched paper airplanes of peace, rang a peace bell, and marched for peace, with a heart for fostering unification.

Chairman Lee Hyun-young stressed the importance of religious leaders' roles in advocating for hope and unification, even amidst adversity. Chairman of UPF International Dr. Yang Chang-shik discussed the visionary Korea-Japan undersea tunnel project initiated in 1981 by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, emphasizing its potential to foster peace and connectivity in Northeast Asia and beyond.

President Song Gwang-seok underscored the significance of the day's prayers and commitment, laying the groundwork for the unification of North and South Korea under divine guidance. Chairman Hwang Sun-jo highlighted the ongoing geopolitical tensions and the urgent need for a movement toward a prosperous and unified Korea inspired by the founder's vision.

Reverend John Jackson, Co-Chairman of the ACLC, representing American clergy, emphasized that many clergy members have fervently prayed from the United States across Freedom Bridge to the Korean Peninsula, seeking the peaceful unification of the region. He affirmed that these prayers will continue relentlessly until a Heavenly Unified Korea is realized, with a deep hope that their aspirations will come to fruition.

Archbishop Johannes Ndanga reflected on Jesus Christ instructed His followers to spread His teachings worldwide, a task meant for all religious traditions. Then he acknowledged the efforts of the late Reverend Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, in actively advancing this divine mission. Archbishop Ndanga expressed his hope for all religious groups to collaborate, inspired by the leadership of Dr. Moon, to further disseminate God's will around the world.



The IAPD Inter-religious Prayer Rally took place as a continuation of the momentum from the Re-Ignite Conference, held on April 22 in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi-do. At the conference, religious leaders came together to share their aspirations for a unified Korea and a peaceful world.

This event aimed to rekindle the Holy Spirit, setting the stage for the subsequent Imjingak prayer rally. Serving as a spiritual ceremony, the rally carried this renewed spirit northward and symbolized a unified inter-religious commitment to peace across the Korean Peninsula.

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*This summary provides an overview of the discussions that took place at the event. It is intended for general informational purposes only and should not be considered a verbatim record of the proceedings.*