## **UPF's International Association for Peace and Economic Development -- IAED**

Thomas G. Walsh November 2021



The Universal Peace Federation and its co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon launched IAED at World Summit 2020 in Seoul Korea as one six entities known as primary associations. The Summit attracted over five thousand delegates who convened under the theme, Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universally Shared Values. Guided by the founders' vision that we are "one family under God" attendees at the IAED Conference signed an Inaugural Resolution that read in part:

We affirm our belief that business leaders have the opportunity and responsibility to work in collaboration with other sectors of society to make the world a better place, addressing its most significant challenges, and promoting world peace, long-term mutual prosperity and truly sustainable development.

Rooted in the principles of UPF and the belief that business can be a much needed force for good, IAED seeks to build a network of business, government and economic thought leaders committed to driving economic development toward establishing a global environment of interdependence and mutual prosperity. IAED works to achieve its goals in three ways. By providing access to leading-edge thought leadership, educational programs, shared resources and business tools to entrepreneurs and business leaders who are striving to not only build successful businesses but to also make a difference in people's lives, leaving a legacy of good.

By building a global community of business people who connect with each other – and with the larger UPF network of current and former heads of state, parliamentarians, academicians and religious leaders – to contribute their unique values toward substantially realizing the noble vision of world peace and

development.

By developing and expanding the IAED "entity" to facilitate tangible programs in disadvantaged areas around the world. Such programs may include the support of risk-taking investments, public- private partnerships and corporate social-responsibility programs that improve the lives of people through addressing the problems of inequality, injustice, environmental degradation and human poverty.



Our mission is to attract and develop a core of business, government and innovative economic thought leaders who can collectively impact society through collaboration, education, personal development, and deepened relationships that lead to the creation of a global environment conducive to mutual prosperity.

Peace is essential to economic development. War is a force of destruction that obliterates infrastructure --buildings, roads, airports, water and food supplies. Primarily, war takes the lives of fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. The Covid-19 pandemic is similar in that regard. It has not affected structures or water supply but it has taken people and it has ruined businesses. A year ago, national economies the world over were in great decline. Economic recovery seemed distant or unlikely to succeed. Well-trained economists the world over have exerted much effort to pull the world back from the brink of economic destruction. Some nations are still suffering but much optimism exists that the world economy will bounce back. In the present environment the International Association for Peace and Economic Development is a precious organization and a benefit to humankind.