

UPF International Newsletter: Happy Holiday Season from UPF International

Thomas G. Walsh
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Happy Holiday Season from UPF International

As 2021 draws to a close and the New Year 2022 begins, all of us at UPF International want to express appreciation to all our friends and colleagues from all across the world. Thank you for your support, your encouragement and for all that you do to advance the mission and work of the Universal Peace Federation.

Although the pandemic has stubbornly refused to retreat, posing continued obstacles to our anticipated “return to normalcy,” UPF has not been deterred. In fact, through our ongoing Rally of Hope series, our International Leadership Conference series and World Summit series we have been as active as ever, if not even more than in the past. While we of course miss meeting face to face in conference rooms and hotel lobbies, we have all adjusted to new formats for convening and dialoguing together.

Special thanks go out to all of you who have participated in our virtual programs, either through live stream connection or by submitting a recorded statement. These programs, in fact, allow us to reach audiences we had never dreamed of reaching in the past, even into the millions. This has been a silver lining of the limitations posed by the pandemic.

2021 also brought the inauguration of Think Tank 2022 as a “virtual think tank” of experts dedicated to the search for a breakthrough in the frozen conflict that divides the Korean Peninsula and remains a volatile flashpoint in Northeast Asia. Think Tank 2022 has also spawned a Forum series that brings together Korea experts to offer their insights and recommendations for dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation between the two

Koreas.

As we look ahead toward 2022, we are planning to convene World Summit 2022 on the theme of “Peace on the Korean Peninsula,” from February 10-14, 2022, using a hybrid format---both virtual and face-to-face---and involving current and former heads of state and government, speakers of parliaments, religious leaders, academicians, business and media leaders, women leaders, youth, and leading figures from the arts. The Summit will include an Interreligious Summit, and a “million person” Rally for Peace on the Korean Peninsula.

To achieve this ambitious goal, all the UPF Associations---ISCP, IAFLP, IAAP, IAPD, IAED, IMAP, IAAP, and IAACP---will be fully engaged, and convening their own concurrent sessions, along with Think Tank 2022.

Throughout 2022 we will also continue the Rally of Hope series, our Peace Talks webinars, along with our publications: the weekly UPF E-newsletter, the Dialogue & Alliance interfaith journal, and UPF Today magazine.

Moreover, our regional, sub-regional, national and local UPF chapters will continue to be strengthened and expanded, along with the primary associations of UPF and our ongoing programs such as the Middle East Peace Initiative, the Northeast Asia Peace Initiative, the South Asia Peace Initiative, the “Peace Road” programs, the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation, and of course our partnerships with the United Nations and many other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

UPF is deeply appreciative and indebted to our Co-Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for her generous support and wise guidance. Without her steadfast and inspired leadership, the UPF would not be able to carry out its mission.

In addition, a strong heartfelt word of appreciation is also due to the UPF regional chairs, UPF association coordinators, sub-regional chairs, regional secretaries general, and tens of thousands of volunteers who carry out so many excellent programs in every corner of the world.

We look forward to our continued collaboration. Thank you so very much for your support.

From all of us at UPF International, may all the blessings of the season be yours.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D.
Chairman
Universal Peace Federation



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