

Nepal, a Multicultural Nation of 126 Races 70,000 Nepali Citizens Gather for One Heart Festival

Chung-Shik Yong
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126개 다민족 국가 네팔 국민 7만 명 참가 한마음 축제

수도 카트만두에서 126개 민족, 70만 명 시민들이 '다문화가족교육진흥을 위한 한마음 축제'를 열었다. 이번 축제는 126개 민족의 전통 문화를 소개하고, 다문화가족의 역할을 알리는 계기로 마련됐다. 축제에는 126개 민족의 전통 춤과 노래, 민요, 민속놀이 등 다양한 문화 공연이 펼쳐졌다. 특히, 다문화가족의 역할을 알리는 계기로 마련됐다. 축제에는 126개 민족의 전통 춤과 노래, 민요, 민속놀이 등 다양한 문화 공연이 펼쳐졌다.

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Pledging to "create a peaceful world through true families," the festival was broadcast live from 10 stations, including the national broadcasting station.

The story begins on a main street of Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, also known as "the world's roof." The day is clear, but a thick cloud of dust flies toward the parking lot. Drivers honk their horns at

motorbikes and pedestrians blocking their way. On both sides of the noisy, crowded street, a procession of Nepali citizens dressed up in colorful saris and traditional clothing forms a long line.

**"글로벌 해경이 서로 다르다 할지라도 우리와
신뢰와 분별과 사랑, 기쁨, 평화에 대한 희망은
진 세계적으로 큰 울림을 줄 것임이 틀림없다."
"이 축제를 통해서 아랍권과 접점을 만드는
여정을 시작하에 뛰어들고 싶습니다."**

이제 가장 큰 과제를 안고서 여정을 시작해 왔다고 할
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2024년 11월 21일, 카타르 도하에서 열린 '아시아-태평양 리더십 회의'에 참석한 박종철 대표의 모습이다. 그는 행사에서 '행복의 길은 있지만 좁아갈수록 더욱더 넓어질 수 있다'는 희망을 전하고는 '행복이란 누구의 것이냐'는 물음을 던졌다.

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The procession is making its way towards Nepal's national stadium, the Dasarath Rangasala Stadium. In the noise and bustle of the crowd, the faces of the people are flushed with excitement. It takes barely over an hour for the stadium's seats to be filled over halfway. The atmosphere can be likened to the excitement before a K-pop concert or a Korean pro baseball opening game.

This scene is the site of the "Multicultural Family Educational Peace Festival 2015," hosted by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (Family Federation) and the Universal Peace Federation in Kathmandu on February 21st. This festival was advocated by the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon as a way for the citizens of the world to sing together in unison for peace, and to establish true families who can overcome the barriers of nation, race and religion. The UPF is a special advisory organization of the current UN Economic and Social Council, and was founded in September 12th, 2005. The UPF is an international NGO that currently manages a network of 154 nations and peace ambassadors around the world. "True love is UPF's ideal and philosophy" is the catchphrase of the organization, which works to play the role of soft power in connecting world leaders from political, religious, academic, press, cultural and sports fields in order to solve conflicts both large and small.

Emphasizing religious and familial peace through pure families

People have brought their entire families along with them to participate in the festival, under the banner, "Let Us Create a Peaceful World through Pure Families." With 70,000 participants from all over Nepal, this festival is said to be the largest multicultural event to ever be held in Kathmandu. Huge balloons float in the sky around the stadium, and the center stage is bedecked with flowers and the national flags of 22 countries, building excitement for the event. 10 broadcasting stations, including the national broadcasting station, aired the event live, and dozens of reporters competed for coverage of the event.

"This is the 18th mass marriage ceremony to be held in Nepal," said Family Federation Nepal President Ek Nath Dhakal (Nepali Constituent Assembly member, age 39), who took charge of the preparation for the day's events. "Recently, Nepali society has seen a lot of conflict between married couples. I hope that the relationship between husband and wife can be improved through the mass marriage ceremony. We have been receiving a flood of requests for this event, so we have been working on preparing it since December," he added.

He also explained that this was the first interreligious and interracial to be held in the history of Nepal. Nepal is a diverse nation, home to 126 minorities who speak 123 languages. Nepal, which is about two-thirds the size of the Korean Peninsula, has a population of a little over 30 million people. The constant conflicts between races have been pointed out as an obstacle to the development of Nepali society. The gathering of 80 different races at today's events is a very uncommon sight in Nepal.

The diverse crowd of attendees bedecked in traditional garb was a splendid sight to see. When a parade of students in varied, multicolored traditional clothing did a turn around the stadium, the crowd of many colors was united in beaming smiles. Every new traditional dance performed on the stage drew cheers from the audience. Kunal Sanumaya (12) and Nepal Suntali (12) waited backstage in their red saris and beautifully painted lips. "Our hearts are racing with the thought that we are able to represent the diverse people of Nepal," they said in trembling voices. It was heartwarming to watch students wearing the traditional costumes of the many races of Nepal gather together and sing the Nepal national anthem at the top of their lungs.

Today's event was also regarded as a conduit to seeking harmony between the many religions of Nepal. Eight representatives from Hinduism (which accounts for about 80% of Nepal's religious population), Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism, Baha'i, Jainism and Sikhism came onto the stage in interreligious ceremonial clothing to perform the united holy water ceremony for the brides and grooms. The pouring of water into one place symbolized the pursuit of harmony between religions and cultures. "I look forward to the way in which the marvelous philosophy of peace will lead the people of Nepal towards tolerance, coexistence and harmony," said Naramaya Illista (32), who attended the ceremony.

Almost 3,000 existing couples participated in the re-blessing ceremony. They may have practiced different faiths, but they all made the same promise to raise true families and work together to bring about a world of peace.

Family Federation Asian Continental Director Chung-Shik Yong and his wife served as officiators of the ceremony on behalf of the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, as seven representative couples took their places on the stage for the marriage ceremony. After the holy water ceremony, in which they pledged to "be reborn as new families and live transparent lives," the officiators

asked the couples four questions, including “Do you pledge to become pure families centered on God?” The couples answered “Yes!” in a loud, resounding chorus. Then, the rings, representing the exchange of vows, were exchanged between the brides and grooms. The ceremony then ended with the proclamation of holy marriage, signaling rebirth for all of the families present. “I think that many people of Nepal were moved by the idea of protecting purity and linking many families together as one through the marriage ceremony,” said Bhidak Bhandari (27), who participated in the marriage ceremony. The Nepali government was very supportive of the “Multicultural Family Educational Peace Festival,” as was evident from the attendance of Vice President Parmanand Jha. “When I met Rev. Moon in 2010, he promised to work together with us to revive the values of the family and to bring peace to Nepal and the world,” he said. “Without true love in the family, peace cannot come about, and a nation of love cannot be built,” he continued. After the event was over, he expressed his satisfaction with reporters. “I was able to feel that the family traditions are alive and well even among our youth,” he said. “I hope that our Constituent Assembly, which is in its primary stages, will be able to create a new constitution which reflects morality and family values.” (Referenced from a separate interview)

Then, Family Federation International Headquarters Director-General Sun Jin Moon stepped up to the platform to deliver the Head of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s message. “Although our religious backgrounds may be different, our sacred essence and our hope for love, happiness and peace will ring throughout the world,” she said. “This blessing will become the foundation upon which the ideal true family can begin its journey.” She then urged the participants to become the “veterans of peace who create a peaceful world” and emphasized each individual’s responsibility in creating an ideal true family.

“We must promise to fulfill our individual responsibilities, act morally and live a life of sacrifice for the sake of others, become the embodiment of love in our couples and families, and fulfill the responsibility of always ruling over creation. In order to accomplish these things, we must create a heart of global culture—a culture of unity in which all of humankind lives as one family under God in love. Through this culture, we will bring peace and prosperity to the entire world.”

“I think that today’s event will play an important role in impeding the steady breakdown of the family,” said former Police Chief Bahadur Shrestha (58), whom we met at the stadium. “Most of Nepali citizens are Hindi, but I feel that they will be able to internalize the peace principles of Rev. Moon.”

The Need for a New Method of Cooperation between Nations

The South Asian Peace Initiative (SAPI), International Conference, Universal Peace Federation and PPC Nepal co-hosted the “The Increasing Challenges from Extremism to Democracy: Issues and Responses” International Conference from February 19th to the 22nd. The event was attended by about 300 people, including Nepal Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, former Nepal Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Nepal Deputy Prime Minister Upendra Yadav, Nepal Parliament Member Ek Nath Dhakal, India Parliament Member Bhagat Singh Koshyari and other current and former political leaders from 22 nations.

Nepal Prime Minister Sushil Koirala gave the keynote address on February 20th at the SAPI International Conference. “Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi reminded us that even in the worst of circumstances, we should always search for peaceful solutions. The principles of non-violence and living for the sake of others taught by the saints are the keys to solving all of the problems faced by all nations.”

This year’s event is the 16th of its kind to be held by the South Asian Peace Initiative, which began

holding international conferences under the banner “Innovative Approaches to Peace through Responsible Leadership and Good Governance” in 2005 in Lumbini, the birthplace of Sakyamuni (the Buddha). These conferences have been attended by Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Prakash Man Singh, Mahatma Gandhi’s descendant Tushar Gandhi, South and Southeast Asian heads of state, parliament members, diplomats, educators and women leaders who gathered together to seek ways of bringing about peace in the world.

In his welcoming address, Family Federation Asia Continental Director Chung-Shik Yong criticized religious egotism. “Extremism seeks to sacrifice others for the benefit and profit of the individual. It is a very dangerous and destructive philosophy, as it seeks to use any methods necessary to reach the goals of the individual,” he noted. The interreligious harmony which is so fundamental to the Family Federation can find its origins in the couple, the origin of all humankind. “In the beginning of history, all humankind was ‘One Family under God.’ Unfortunately, our first ancestors (Adam and Eve) acted selfishly and misused the precious gift of conjugal love. The original, ideal love of God was abused for selfish purposes,” he continued. The Family Federation seeks to build world peace through a new method of cooperation between nations and through international marriage which transcends the borders of race and religion. “In this age in which nations are being brought closer together, we must now create a new system of cooperation between nations centered upon ‘One Family under God,’ in order to bring about technological, economic and geopolitical growth.”

Nepal Prime Minister Sushil Koirala made an appeal for a democratic solution to the political conflicts of Nepal. “I cannot count the number of Nepali citizens whose lives were sacrificed by extremism and combat. The common love between the nation and its citizens can bring about the solution to our problems,” he said. “When our patriotism transcends political party, race, class and all other dividing groups, and transforms into a love that encompasses our entire nation, we will be able to live together peacefully as one Nepali family. We must all work hard to listen to the opinions of those with different beliefs than us with calm minds and open hearts.”

The Family Federation, which has two seats in the Nepal Parliament as the Family Party, has carried out peace movements in Nepal since 1975. In November, 2005, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon visited Nepal and founded the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Kathmandu.

Nepal also participated in the 120 day “120 Nations World Peace Tour” carried out by Rev. and Dr. Moon, in which they founded UPF chapters in countries around the world. They also held peace talks with Prime Minister Adhikari and Vice President Parmanand Jha. Rev. Moon is considerably well regarded in many parts of Nepal for his evangelistic work. “Most Nepali citizens have heard of Rev. Sun Myung Moon,” said Kathmandu citizen Kaju Depp Raju (27). “Even if they do not know much about the actual principles of the Family Federation, they know about it as a ‘peace organization.’”

The Family Federation has worked hard to expand its political influence in order to bring about the settlement of its peace movements. One of the fruits of this effort is the formation of the Family Party. The Family Party is a minority party which occupies only two spots in Nepal’s parliament, but it is said to be more active and effectual than any other party.

Family Party Parliament Member Ek Nath Dhakal was selected as the first Minister for the Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation. “Although racial conflict has been at the center of Nepali society, this large-scale event is a chance for the interracial peace movement to really gain footing,” he said. When asked about the role of the Family Party in the Nepali government, he answered, “Although we only occupy two seats in Parliament, we accomplish much more than our seats’ worth. We work hard to

educate our citizens about peace in the family. Our influence among the 31 parties of Nepal's Parliament can be likened to that of the top four influential parties." The Family Party is currently making plans to announce the establishment of "Parents' Day" as an official national event in Parliament.

"The Family Federation has been carrying out many activities for the sake of peace in the global village, including the 3,000-couple International Mass Blessing Marriage Ceremony, held in Korea in March, the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation Scholarship Awards Ceremony, in which about 2,000 students from around the world received a total of 10 billion won in scholarships and the World Media Conference, which utilized the media to find peace in Northeast Asia," said a representative of the Family Federation. Expectations of the outcome of these events are high for the Family Federation, which transcends religion, race and national borders to carry out peace movements.

"Even though we come from different religious backgrounds, we share the same genuine essence and the same love, joy and hope for peace which will ring throughout the entire world," he continued. "The blessing is the foundation upon which the ideal true family can begin."

Photos

- The Multicultural Family Educational Peace Festival 2015, held in the national stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal on February 21st, drew a crowd of over 70,000 people. It was the largest-scale multicultural event of its kind to ever be held in Nepal.

- Parmanand Jha Nepal

- The Vice President and Family Federation International Headquarters Director-General Sun Jin Moon held the festival opening ceremony on stage.

- Many Nepali students from diverse racial backgrounds participated in the festival clothed in traditional garments.

- Seven representative couples of the 3,000 existing couples' re-blessing ceremony came onto the stage for the marriage ceremony. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala Nepal delivered the keynote address at the opening of the 'South Asian Peace Initiative International Conference' on February 20th.

2nd Anniversary of Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day and 'Society of One Human Family'



Family Federation Holds Youth Scholarship Award Ceremony, World Media Conference, International Leadership Conference and Other Commemorative Events

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (Korean President Kyeung-Seuk Ryu, i.e. Family Federation) recently celebrated the 2nd anniversary of Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day. The Family Federation proclaimed Foundation Day on January 13th, 2013, as the starting point of a peaceful world. In commemoration of the 2nd anniversary of Foundation Day, and under the banner, “A Society of One Family under God,” the Family Federation reflected on its past and held many events to seek out tangible methods for creating a peaceful world.

On March 3rd, at the Cheong Shim Peace World Center in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi-do, the “2nd Anniversary of Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day Commemorative Ceremony and Cosmic Blessing

Ceremony by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind” was held among a crowd of 30,000 people from around the world. Publishing Committee President Young-Whi Kim and Publishing Committee Vice-President Jae-Suk Lee dedicated the final volume of the Family Federation’s Cheon Il Guk Scriptures, the “Cham Bumo Gyeong.” The now-complete Cheon Il Guk Scriptures are composed of the “Cheon Seong Gyeong,” the “Pyeong Hwa Gyeong” and the “Cham Bumo Gyeong.”

3,800 couples from about 80 different nations (800 new couples and 3,000 existing couples) participated in the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. About 20,000 couples from 194 nations participated in the ceremony via live Internet broadcast, bringing the total number of couples to 24,000. The ceremony was officiated by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. “We cannot solve the issue of radical terrorism with military strength alone,” said former U.S. House of Representatives member Dan Burton. “We must solve this issue with the weapons of ‘sincerity and love.’”

Scholarships Awarded to about 2,000 People from 68 Nations around the World

Previously, on February 28th, at the Cheong Shim International Youth Training Center in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi-do, the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation awarded about 2,000 people from 68 nations with 10 billion won in scholarships. “You must be bold and take responsibility,” said Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to the students. “As filial sons and daughters, you must not neglect your studies. I hope that all of you can fulfill your dreams,” she continued, encouraging the students. Sunhak Peace Prize Council President Il-Shik Hong (Former President of Korea University) also spoke on this occasion. “The Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation seeks to foster a global leader who arms his or herself with the philosophy of peace,” he said. “I hope that all of you gathered here today can soon become pillars of a glorious future.” Recipient representatives Adelina Raja (Romania) and Moritada Oyamada (Japan) said a few words about their being selected. “We will do our best to become people who can give strength to others while cultivating hearts of service for the world.”

The Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation was founded on February 20th, 2013 by Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, in the hopes of continuing his renowned work for peace and fulfilling his wishes for such an organization. “We are currently preparing for the 1st Sunhak Peace Prize Awards Ceremony and plan to carry out many other public service works in the future,” revealed a Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation representative. On March 4th, the Segye Times and the Washington Times co-hosted the World Media Conference. The event, which was held under the banner, “Prospects for Peace in Northeast Asia,” was attended by 300 journalists, politicians and scholars from 40 nations, including former U.S. House of Representatives member Dan Burton, former U.S. Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Christopher R. Hill, former U.S. CIA Director James Woolsey, National Assembly and Saenuri Party member Kyung-Won Na (Director of the National Diplomacy and Unification Council), Washington Times President Larry Beasley and many other domestic and international personnel.

In commemoration of 50 years of diplomatic ties between Korea and Japan, an event was prepared to establish the vision of Korean and Japanese university students. The event was titled “The Role of Korean and Japanese University Students in Bringing about Peace in Northeast Asia,” and also included a symposium and a brotherhood/sisterhood alliance ceremony. The “2015 International Symposium for the Unification of the Korean Peninsula and the Realization of Peace in Northeast Asia” was also held, in which participants discussed the creation of a railway connecting Northeast Asia, the construction of a world peace park in the DMZ, and the need for the construction of the fifth UN executive office in the Korean Peninsula. The “UN Executive Office in Korea Hope Petition Signing Ceremony” was also held, and plans were made to hold a year-long signature campaign across all of Korea to send to the UN.

The “2015 Cheon Il Guk Leaders Assembly” was held at the Cheong Shim International Youth Training Center between March 5th and 6th. The event, which was titled “The Creation of Solidarity and Synergy for Victory in Vision 2020,” was attended by about 500 people, including church leaders from about 190 nations, organization and business leaders.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon emphasized “‘Life lived for the sake of others,’ in other words, the values of true love” as the principles of the creation of Cheon Il Guk. “The individual and familial Cheon Il Guk, brought about through the perfection of the individual and the family, will become the starting point and foundation for God’s original ideal of creation, ‘One Human Family,’ or, in other words, Cheon Il Guk of the world,” she said. Dr. Han appointed Sun Jin Moon as the International President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, and her husband In Sup Park as the International Vice President. She also appointed Secretary General Man-Ho Kim as International Headquarters Director-General.

Photo

- The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification held many diverse events in celebration of the 2nd anniversary of Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day. Shown in photo: “2015 Cheon Il Guk Leaders Assembly.”

Interview: Nepal Vice President Parmanand Jha “Nepal and Korea resemble each other. We will use Korea’s economic growth as a model to perfect a democratic society.”

인터뷰: 파르만안드 즈하 내각 부총리
“네팔과 한국은 닮은꼴, 한국의 경제성장을 모델삼아 민주주의 완성하겠다”

2018년 2월 20일 오후 10시 30분, 서울에서 열린 ‘2018년 평화와 민주주의를 위한 국제대회’에서 파르만안드 즈하 부총리를 인터뷰한 모습. 왼쪽은 파르만안드 즈하 부총리, 오른쪽은 인터뷰를 진행한 김민준 기자다. (사진: 김민준 기자)

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파르만안드 즈하 부총리는 인터뷰에서 “한국은 민주주의를 완벽하게 실현한 국가로, 우리는 이를 모델 삼아 민주주의를 완성하겠다”고 말했다. 그는 “한국은 민주주의를 완벽하게 실현한 국가로, 우리는 이를 모델 삼아 민주주의를 완성하겠다”고 말했다. 그는 “한국은 민주주의를 완벽하게 실현한 국가로, 우리는 이를 모델 삼아 민주주의를 완성하겠다”고 말했다.

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Conflict still continues despite the cessation of 239 years of monarchy... Need for continuous “Peace Movements” in Nepal, a family-centered culture

The Nepali government was nothing but supportive of the Multicultural Family Educational Peace Festival, which drew a crowd of about 70,000 Nepali citizens. Nepal’s official name is the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. In 2007, Nepal ceased to be a monarchy and on May 28th, 2008, the nation claimed a new start as a republic state. A constitution is being written in order to solidify the nation as a democracy, constant conflict with the opposing party, the Unified Communist Party of Nepal’s (Maoist) (CPN-M), has brought about political chaos. Nepal, which is currently one of the world’s poorest nations, is home to about 120 races and languages, which are constantly in conflict. This year’s peace festival shone a bright light on Nepali society. On February 20th, the day before the festival, we met with Vice President Parmanand Jha Nepal in his office to discuss the political climate of Nepal and the meaning of the peace festival.

The interview is shown below.

“You are giving the keynote address at the Multicultural Peace Festival, the largest scale event this country has ever seen, with a crowd of 70,000 Nepali citizens. What does this Peace Festival mean to you?”

“With 70,000 attendees, this is the largest scale event ever to be held in Nepal. Nepal has already established the culture of the mass marriage ceremony. We held one just last month in Kathmandu for about 100 to 150 couples. In traditional Nepali culture, we have what is known as the ‘God of Marriage.’ The culture of the mass marriage ceremony is a way of inheriting and continuing that culture. The mass marriage ceremony of the Multicultural Peace Festival is very similar to traditional Nepali culture, so I am greatly looking forward to it. I hope that through this event, many more Nepali citizens can participate and help to continue to make it bigger and bigger.”

You refer to Rev. Sun Myung Moon as “Father Moon,” and say that he left a deep impression on you. Can you tell us more about your relationship with him?

“A long time ago, I visited Korea and had lunch with Rev. Moon at the Cheon Jung Goong in Cheong Pyeong, Gyeonggi-do. Out of all of the people attending, Rev. Moon embraced me the most warmly. He kept repeating to me, ‘We must achieve world peace.’ That moment, when our hearts became one, is carved deeply into my memory, and is a moment that I will never forget. Rev. Moon’s ideas and concerns about world peace and harmony left a deep impression on me. Ever since then, I began to refer to Rev. Moon as ‘Father Moon.’ I feel that his peace philosophy continues to spread throughout the world, even now.”

One of the many political parties of Nepal, the Family Party, stresses the ideals of peace and harmony in the family. I have heard that problems in Nepali families have become a social issue. What is your opinion on the work of the Family Party?

“Nepal is home to a staggering 31 political parties. The Family Party currently occupies two seats and will continue to grow in the future. The Family Party practices good teamwork and works well with the other parties. As far as Nepal’s family structure concerns, many husbands often go abroad to work for two or three years, leaving their wives behind, which sometimes results in family breakdown. However, I believe that Nepal will overcome this issue, as the Nepali wives are very monogamous and are of deep religious faith.”

It has already been seven years since Nepal ceased to be a monarchy and established a democratic government. What political and economic changes have taken place since then? What sort of work have you been doing, and what has your role as the Vice President been like?

“Until very recently, Nepal was a monarchist nation. Our tourism industry began growing about 40 years ago, when people started to hear about our lovely natural landscapes and beautiful heritage. Our citizens followed suit and began to visit other countries as well. Thanks to this cultural exchange, our collective knowledge on democracy and human rights began to change. When we compared ourselves to first world countries, we came to understand that our nation was very underdeveloped in regards to human rights and other issues. As our citizens worked to improve the protection of human rights in our nation, it

became possible to abolish the monarchy and establish a democracy. However, we have still been unable to put down the roots of democracy, and we are still working hard to establish a constitution.”

We Must Prioritize Political Stability and Economic Development

Nepal currently has an illiteracy rate of 40%. According to a recent (January 22nd) study, the establishment of the democratic constitution has been put on hold once again (Several items on the agenda have still not been introduced, and the Nepalese Constituent Assembly is in danger of dissolving by 2017). It seems that a decrease in illiteracy would help to settle a democracy. What is your opinion on this from a governmental standpoint?

“It is true that Nepal has a high illiteracy rate, especially in the rural areas and the Himalayan zone. In order to resolve this issue, we need to prioritize political stability and economic development. I believe that the establishment of a constitution will become the backdrop for democratic economic growth. When our political status is stabilized, foreign investors will be able to invest in our nation without fear. Thus, we plan to focus on the establishment of our constitution. Our Constituent Assembly is made up of 601 selected officials. We have decided on the first item, and are currently compiling the necessary articles and divisions, and plan to edit it from there. Each political party has its own opinions, making the process quite difficult, but we plan to do our best to reflect on and adjust the constitution as best as we can.”

It has been 41 years since Korea and Nepal established diplomatic ties. What is the relationship between the Korean and Nepali governments?

“Nepal believes in democracy, and is working hard to establish a constitution. We are putting in a lot of effort into bringing about economic development, but it is still not enough. Korea is a wonderful model of rapid economic growth. Korea began garnering foreign interest and tourists from about 10 years ago. Many Nepali citizens have shown a strong interest in Korea as well. As a fellow democratic nation, I look forward to the continuation of our diplomatic friendship with Korea. I hope that Korea and Nepal can form a contentious friendship. Like Korea, Nepal is also striving to cement good relationships with other nations. (Nepal is located between India and China). In particular, I believe that the bi-weekly direct flights between Korea and Kathmandu are a great change. I believe that it is proof of the close relationship our nations have developed.”

We heard that you said that the Family Federation and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) played important roles in trade between Korea and Nepal. What sort of role do you believe the Family Federation and UPF will play in the relationship between the two nations?

“I visited Korea on an invitation from UPF by Rev. Moon in 2010. At the time, a mass marriage ceremony was being held for 15,000 couples at Sun Moon University. I remember Rev. Moon’s keynote address about the role of world peace. Korea and Nepal are continuing to grow closer together as friends, as the number of Nepali citizens working in Korea continues to grow. The number of Nepali citizens living in Korea will continue to increase, and the relationship between our nations will continue to improve.”

Last year, the Korean government began investment in the “New Village Project” in Nepal. What is the result of that investment?

“Up to about 40 years ago, Korea and Nepal were in similar economic circumstances, until Korea

experienced rapid economic growth. I believe that the key to Korea's economic growth bears a significant meaning for Nepal. In order to understand the secret of Korea's growth, the people of Nepal were able to meet with and listen to Korean ambassadors, and we were able to invite Korean people from UPF to our offices to hear their advice. In particular, the Korean government has supported Nepal in many ways, and I believe that they will continue to help our economic growth for a long time to come."