

FFWPU USA: Celebrating the 51st Anniversary of International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences - ICUS

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Photo courtesy of Sunhak Institute of History

On November 26, 1972, True Parents launched the first International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences ([ICUS](#)). With 20 scientists gathered at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, True Father addressed the program's theme, "The Moral Orientation of the Sciences," and talked about unifying all areas of science as a means for uniting the world.

"The purpose of science is to realize people's dreams," True Father said in his Founder's Address before pointing to ICUS as the blueprint for achieving unity among the sciences. "Science belongs to all humanity and must not be monopolized by any particular nation or bloc," he said.

In 1973, the second ICUS in Tokyo drew five Nobel Prize laureates and attracted much attention. By 1981, the 10th ICUS in Seoul had swelled to 808 scholars from about 100 nations - making it the leading global forum of its kind. Throughout the 1990s, ICUS paved the way for more interdisciplinary and collaborative scientific endeavors.

"For years, the ICUS forums led to countless scientific collaborations and new friendships," True Mother recalled in her memoir, *Mother of Peace* (2020). "We proposed the free and generous exchange of technology among nations, something that had never been imagined in history. Our view is that because science and technology are revealed and given by God, they are the common wealth of all humanity."

"We emphasized that no country should monopolize these common assets," she continued. "We wanted developed countries to globalize the cutting edge standards of science and technology by sharing their tools and methods with developing nations."

Renewed by True Mother in 2017, ICUS now celebrates 51 years since its inception and continues to bring together distinguished figures at the forefront of science and related industries who address a range of challenges facing the global community. As we celebrate the long-standing achievements of ICUS - which also inspired the first International Conference on Science and God (ICSG) in 2020 - let's remember the vision and fortitude of True Parents who championed that science and technology are a gift from God that belongs to all humanity.

You can learn more about the legacy of ICUS [here](#).

About ICUS

International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS)

The International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) is a series of conferences founded in 1972 by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Rev. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. The founders observed that even as the scientific community was engaged in searching for academic truth, the scientific enterprise was becoming fragmented into progressively narrow subdisciplines that were increasingly isolated from one another. Therefore, ICUS was developed as an international forum dedicated to the multidisciplinary exchange of views on significant issues of worldwide concern. This series strove to draw scientists and their work together, centering on absolute values—that is, values that benefit all of humanity. At that time, the sponsoring organization was the International Cultural Foundation.

The first in this series, ICUS I, was held in New York City. It had 20 participants from eight countries and diverse scientific disciplines. On that foundation, subsequent meetings grew remarkably, in terms of the number of participants and their level of expertise. The disciplinary representation extended from the natural sciences to the social sciences and the humanities. By the year 2000, when ICUS XXII was held, more than 2,000 scientists from around the globe, including over 30 Nobel laureates, had participated and contributed enduring work, which became available through published proceedings, topical books, and refereed papers. The meetings were held in 13 major cities of the world.

By the 1990s, scientific endeavors were becoming increasingly interdisciplinary and collaborative, and the urgency of the first concern of ICUS had passed. After ICUS XXII, the Founders turned their attention to other pressing matters concerning international conflicts arising from religious, racial, cultural, and ideological disparities that led to much suffering.

Unfortunately, these problems were accompanied by a steep rise in environmental degradation, threatening our future well-being. Recognizing these challenges, Rev. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon reconvened ICUS in 2017. Since then, ICUS has been sponsored by HJIFUS to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on various approaches to resolving environmental problems such as pollution, resource depletion, loss of biodiversity, waste

environmental problems such as pollution, resource depletion, loss of biodiversity, waste disposal, and climate change, among others. However, these conferences are not meant to be just an academic exercise, but they are intended to provide pathways toward the implementation of solutions that can restore the health of our planet and alleviate human suffering.

As ICUS has been gathering leading scientists who then share their cutting-edge knowledge, HJIFUS has been publishing the proceedings of each conference and distributing them worldwide to researchers, scholars, policy makers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and educators, thus enhancing global awareness of the impending issues and what we can do to preserve and protect the Earth and its inhabitants.



Proper stewardship and care for the environment is absolutely essential at this time. Climate change, rising sea levels, deforestation, desertification, a lack of clean water supply, malnutrition and the rising cost of food products require our immediate attention. God created us to love and care for the Earth and all its blessings.

— Rev. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, August 10, 2014, Hilton Hotel, Seoul, Korea

ICUS Conferences Since 2017

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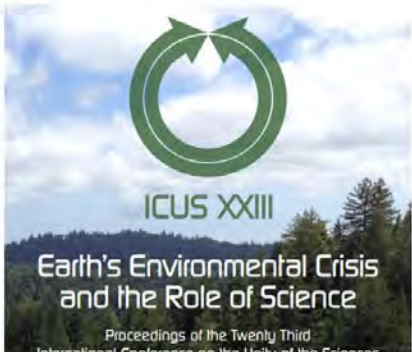
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