

UPF-Japan: Cheryl Wetzstein speaks on Promoting Marriage and Family Values

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Tokyo, Japan—UPF-Japan and its Council of Ambassadors for Peace continued their focus on addressing the declining birth rate in Japan through their most recent International Leadership Conference, “Crisis in Families and Visions for their Revitalization-Emergency of Japan's Dwindling Childbirth and Possible Countermeasures,” which was held in Tokyo on September 29, 2015.

The keynote speaker of the half-day event was Ms. Cheryl Wetzstein, a veteran journalist with the American newspaper, The Washington Times. She has covered news on family and society, including the U.S. Supreme Court’s legalization of same-sex marriage in June.

She said a cultural war over same-sex marriage is intensifying in America, and cited several examples of it. A local U.S. official was imprisoned because she had refused to issue marriage licenses on the grounds of her religious faith, and a baker was sued when he had refused to make a wedding cake for a homosexual couple.

Speaking on the Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage, Ms. Wetzstein said the judges who opposed the ruling said the ruling was based on “a wrong concept of freedom” and if “same-sex marriage was legalized, it would be hard to deny legalizing polygamy.”

She said the legitimacy of same-sex marriage would be evaluated by the adult children raised by homosexual couples. Already some children have spoken out on homosexual parenthood, saying that they did not have a sound childhood or lost their right to have a mother and a father.

Representing the organizers, Mr. Hiroo Suzuki, professor emeritus of the Tsukuba University and president of the Council of Ambassadors for Peace, said that he was happy “[this] meeting [of] Ambassadors for Peace who share a similar sense of mission and are engaged [in advancing] peace” took place.

Mr. Seiichi Kikuya, secretary general of UPF-Japan spoke on the event theme. He warned that if same-sex marriage was legalized in Japan, it would erode Japan’s marriage system and accelerate the population decline in the country.

A lively panel discussion followed, where representatives of civil society, including a member of one of Tokyo’s wards and an intermediate school teacher, exchanged views on the theme’s topic.

The event closed with UPF-Japan president, Dr. Eiji Tokuno, pointing out that Japan's numerous social problems stem from a breakdown of the family. He said over half of all homicide cases in Japan are committed by relatives of the victims, and encouraged the participants to promote the national campaign for marriage and family values.