

## **Interview of Sekai Nippo's President Masuhiro Kuroki - The Sekai Nippo Story**

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*Question: Please tell our readers the Sekai Nippo creation story.*

*Sekai Nippo* was established on January 1, 1975. The background at that time was that the Vietnam War had recently finished [January 27, 1973] and the Americans had lost. The Americans, who fought on the side of the Free World, lost to Vietnam, which is a communist country. At that

time the power of the communists covered most of the world, two-thirds. Communists controlled countries in Asia, Africa and elsewhere. It affected Japan, especially in the belt area from Tokyo to Osaka. That area became Leftist. Japan worried that communists would control the whole country. The Media mainly supported the Leftists. Rev. Moon worried about the Japanese situation. Teacher Sun Myung Moon said that if Japan keeps going in this direction, it will become a communist country. He said we need a media outlet that opposes communism. We need media that have a clear anti-communist view and know what real freedom is. Father wanted to make *Sekai Nippo* an advocate. Based on that purpose, the establishment of *Sekai Nippo* took place in 1975. *Sekai Nippo* stood against communists who opposed freedom of the Press and freedom of religion.

*Question: When Korea's Segye Times began, foreign members distributed it and sold subscriptions. How did you first get subscriptions to *Sekai Nippo*?*

Father said to make *Sekai Nippo* known all around Japan. Many members went house to house putting the newspaper in mailboxes. But there was a strong reaction against that. We had a problem with that. *Sekai Nippo* challenged all other newspapers by criticizing them and promoted our unprecedent values. This made a strong impression on the Japanese people.

*Question: Have you gotten exclusive stories?*

In 1996, the poison attack on the subway by Aum Shinrikyo [a doomsday religious group] shocked the world and made people disbelieve in religion. At that time, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the governing party, tried to regulate religions. The LDP had written a bill to make this a law. Russia and China disallow religion; Japan has freedom of religion, but with passage of that bill, the reality would be the same as disallowing religion. That was a *Sekai Nippo* scoop. We got a draft of the bill and printed it in the newspaper under a big headline. This made a strong impression on religious people. The opposition also made this a big issue. In the Diet [Japan's national legislature], Ichiro Ozawa, head of the opposition Liberal Party, held up the *Sekai Nippo* newspaper and said, "This does not protect religion, it incriminates religion!" This was deeply influential. The LDP said that it was not being done publicly but by just a few people in the party. In that way the bill disappeared. Rev. Moon said, "You did a good job. You saved Japan, because if the bill had passed Japan would be the same as a communist country."

*Question: You recently entered into a sisterhood relationship with Nepal Republic Media.*

Yes, when a representative came from Nepal to Japan. It's not a strict partnership. We had some contact at the Nepal Summit and now on we have partnership. It's casual; we do not exchange articles. Yesterday we established the International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) to realize world peace, which Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon advocate. Of course the driving forces are political and economic power, but the media should lead it. Media work is archangel work. When Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon speak, they often emphasize the Media's importance. Through this event (the Centenary of True Parents' and their sixtieth Holy Wedding anniversary) I hope the Media can contribute to making world peace. This time, the establishment of IMAP comes just at the right time. The Media is at a turning point. The establishment of IMAP is meaningful.

*Question: What lasting influence has *Sekai Nippo* had on Japan?*

Because since its establishment, *Sekai Nippo* has had a clear anti-communist intention. Japanese people know this well. Ex-PM Nakasone, who died last year, several times visited our company's symposium. *Sekai Nippo* represents conservative opinions and *Sekai Nippo* knows the Korean Peninsula's situation in detail. It's a newspaper that cannot be ignored.