

Korea's second Multicultural Peace Festival held in Yeouido Park in Seoul

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The second Multicultural Peace Festival, "Exploring many cultures together, a hopeful Korea!" took place on September 10, beginning at 10:00 am at Yeouido Park's Culture Square, in central Seoul. Around ten thousand people came to express respect for social diversity during this festival promoting harmony.



The Peace Festival

The Korea Multicultural Peace Federation and the Multicultural Social Welfare Center organized the event. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, WFPW, the Segye Times and World Masters Committee, a Korean-based organization founded to create one world through art and culture by introducing foreign cultures into Korea and Korean culture to the world, sponsored the event. Twenty-four branches of the Korean Multicultural Peace Federation, fifty-five member groups, ambassadors of various countries, NGOs and organizations with connections to multicultural activities participated. Korean citizens, bicultural families and audience members from more than fifty nations including Japan, Mongolia, Norway, England, Malaysia, Belgium, Ukraine, the Philippines and the United States combined in a festival for all people of the world. The festival began with a pre-event performance. Part one of the event was ceremonial; part two had special performances and the third part comprised a three-on-three basketball tournament, multicultural singing festival, various other programs and booth visiting.



Beyond ideology

During the ceremony, Mr. In-myeong Hong, secretary-general of the Multicultural Peace Federation; and Ms. Hye-rim Moon, president of the Philippines International Family Council were MCs and introduced distinguished guests and a video presentation. Prof. Yeon-ah Moon, president of WFWPUI, welcomed the large crowd.

In President Moon's welcoming address, she spoke of Eun-ju Lee, a female South Korean gymnast in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Eun-ju Lee comes from a bicultural family, having a Korean father

and Japanese mother. Yeon-ah nim told the audience that Eun-ju Lee showed us the true value of peace by going beyond political ideology when she took a photograph with female North Korean gymnast, Un-jong Hong. She went on to say that many people with mixed cultural backgrounds are professionals in a variety of fields and their influence is beginning to spread.

Good citizens

Our movement was granted a license on July 5, 2010 to run a center in Seoul focused on improving the lives and circumstances of foreign-born people living in Korea. Since then, we have opened additional facilities in the city of Daegu and in Iksan, in North Jeolla Province. The work done is for the good of the nation and these centers serve foreign-born people in Korea regardless of their religious background. In the opening speech, Kyeong-seuk Lu welcomed all the participants who had come to the festival in the spirit of overcoming national, racial, lingual, cultural and religious boundaries. In his speech, he said, "Bicultural families work energetically in their own fields and of course in the Republic of South Korea they are becoming dependable citizens who contribute greatly to society, through their children who go through mandatory Korean military conscription and also through service activities." He declared them beacons of hope that will guide us into a globalized era.



Mrs. Wonju McDevitt, chief of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's Secretariat, presenting awards to model citizens from bi-cultural families-- such as good daughters-in-law and excellent students

Pax Koreana

Ms. Eun-hee Kang is head of the Ministry Gender Equality and Family, her deputy director- general Mr. Hyo-shik Yoon read the minister's speech. In it, she congratulated everyone and promised to help, actively, the bicultural families who are growing and developing so that through government policy and support, these families can open the way to an age of harmony and peace as members of Korean society.

Myung-young Kang, president of a local branch of Lions Club International said, "When we look at the foreigners here in Korea, these bicultural families are our neighbors. We must think of them as our family, as our neighbors.... I cannot wait for the 'white-clad folk' and the bicultural families that shine brilliantly in various colors to work together to create a 'Pax Koreana.'"

A multicultural society

Ambassador Raul Hernandez of the Philippines spoke of how happy he was to be able to participate in the Multicultural Festival. "In order to have social diversity we must have cross-border cooperation; increasingly I am realizing the importance of international exchange." He also spoke about his support of multicultural organizations focused on improved rights and social integration programs.



Awards presented

Next, the heads of the National Defense Committee and the Korean Multicultural Peace Federation presented the Defense Award and President's Award, respectively. Recipients also took home scholarships and other grants for improvement of multicultural welfare and cultivating human resources.



Wishing peaceful settlement

Following this, a man and woman read a multicultural peace declaration ostensibly representing the wishes of two million immigrants. Those wishes were that a multi-cultural society can smoothly emerge in the Republic of Korea and that the nation will help immigrants settle properly and resolve any problems and conflicts that might arise as society becomes multicultural.

Culture in sound and movement

During the second part of the festival, the Rainbow Girls performed a dance from the Philippines. Shinmyeong put on a Nanta-like (Korean modern percussion) performance, and the son of bi-cultural Unificationist parents played an electric organ. Love and Truth, likely an ad-hoc group, performed "Aewa-Jin" a Japanese dance. The Thailand Community Culture Team played traditional Thai instruments and the Team African danced. A multicultural children's choir Cha-ming and other performances showcased a variety of cultures through dance and song.



K-pop meets basketball

A K-pop song festival and a three-on-three basketball tournament composed part three of the festival. Meanwhile, forty-four booths featured activities such as drawing on tiles, promotion of the various cultures immigrants to Korea have brought with them. Festival goers could try on traditional clothing or play traditional games. There was a multicultural photo zone as well as a consultation booth for enlisting in the military that featured Mixed Martial Arts. Multicultural family counseling was also promoted.

A hotel banquet

The ambassadors to Korea from Laos, Algeria, Bangladesh, Columbia, Peru, Angola and the Philippines, also participated in the festival. After the special performances, the ambassadors and others attended a luncheon held at the nearby Kensington Hotel. Kyeong-seuk Lu spoke of the history of the blessing. Ambassador Rahman from Bangladesh later said that having seen the Multicultural Festival he had begun to understand FFWPU's international blessings. Another point of interest is that the wife of Ambassador Derragui of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria asked Yeon-ah Moon many questions about WFWP. Among other comments, Prof. Moon replied that in Korea's male-centric society many difficulties arise due to disputes and conflicts, therefore in WFWP, women come to the forefront to work on creating a peaceful world. During the luncheon, Wonju McDevitt spoke on behalf of True Mother, aiding in creating a harmonious and happy event.

Developments

Through this event with people from many nations, we could see the fruits of True Parents' lifelong work for world peace and harmony among all elements of humanity, as we are realizing the settlement of Cheon Il Guk. Yeongmi Park, a second-generation member from southern Seoul, said that meeting people of many different nations was opportunity to feel that we are all one family under God. The Thai International Family Council prepared a drum dance. During this performance, people who have recently met our church performed together. They also enthusiastically participated in the Thai Boxing booth. They had taken a day off from work to share Thai culture. Our members visited Korean-Thai couples whose families have not been active in the church, inviting them to participate in the performance and booth activities. Those who could not participate gave donations that helped provide a variety of activities. Yada, a Thai woman with a Korean husband, said this festival was not just something to participate in, but an opportunity for witnessing, creating harmony and development. She said she was very happy for this opportunity.

The Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation, the Cheongsu Group and others gave financial support toward "programs that cultivate multicultural talent." They were also supportive of improving self-esteem in bicultural children so that through the Korea Multicultural Peace Federation, bicultural families who settled in Korea as citizens and as citizens of Cheon Il Guk, can lead happy lives as blessed families, where parents raise second-generation members who can grow and lead the way.