

FFWPU USA: 3 Solutions to Climate Change: Unificationists Weigh In

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"Climate change protests are taking place all over the world, and many young people continue to protest governments that have not addressed this issue," said Unbi Choi. "As a young person myself, I believe that we need to take action instead of relying on demonstrations."

Unbi Choi and fellow Unificationist Soonmee Iwasaki presented the idea of global tree planting to address climate change during the recent S!NERGY Climate Action competition, where the two came in first place. The competition, part of a series hosted by the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace ([IAYSP](#)), streamed live October 16 on social media. IAYSP was founded in 2017 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and aims to advance world peace by empowering youth and students to become global citizens through character education and peacebuilding projects supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)).

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"The UN's 17 SDGs are an urgent call for action from all countries in a global partnership," said program emcee Norman Shafto. "These go hand in hand with strategies for improving health and education, reducing inequality, and spurring economic growth. Addressing climate change can preserve our oceans and forests."

Choi and Iwasaki proposed large-scale tree planting - a strategy that is already taking root in some parts of the world, including [the Philippines](#), to offset carbon emissions and reduce our ecological footprint.

"We plan to work alongside a U.S. nonprofit that has led a forestation program in North Korea in the past," said Iwasaki. "Our plan will require networking and spreading awareness and education, as well as raising funds. We hope to serve North Korea, because by doing so, it epitomizes what our project stands

for: disparate nations coming together and modeling coexistence for the purpose of benefiting the earth."

Unificationist Iris Wojtowicz, who placed second, shared her proposal of making the global fashion industry more sustainable by shifting away from gender clothing. The global fashion industry is a huge contributor to climate change, producing more than 92 million tons of waste annually.

"My project, 'Unbound,' is a social media page dedicated to educating people on unlearning concepts about gender clothing to promote environmental sustainability and gender equality," said Wojtowicz. "Clothing in and of itself is nonbinary. Products don't have a gender identity; our minds do."

Wojtowicz said Unbound would feature interviews, education materials, tips and hacks. She explained that adopting a nonbinary approach to clothing is not only more environmentally sustainable, but could also lead to more unity between the sexes as an "equalizer" in the social realm of how people perceive one another.

"Being able to have a more diverse palette for selecting our clothing and expressing ourselves would be a great justice to society, reaching back to a historical neutral point where we didn't dress according to gender concepts, but instead out of necessity," she said. "This approach lessens the amount of clothing and production, and creates more opportunities to save the environment."

Unificationist Kozan Morimoto came in third place, proposing to address climate change by harnessing nuclear power.

"Our fossil fuels cause many more deaths from accidents and pollution than nuclear power," he said. "Using nuclear reactors with uranium, we can actually power our world for many thousands of years... The ocean has lots of uranium in it, so that's something we could put more research into and how to extract it. It's difficult to recycle nuclear waste for reuse," he said, "but more research can be invested into that."

Guest judges Insup Park, chairman of the Pacific Rim Integrated Development Group; Susan Golden, president of S. Golden Education; and Dr. Dinshaw Dadachanji, research director of the Hyo Jeong International Foundation for the Unity of the Sciences (HJIFUS) weighed in on each proposal, with online viewers submitting their votes. The winners received a cash prize toward bringing their proposals to life.

You can learn more about the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace [here](#).



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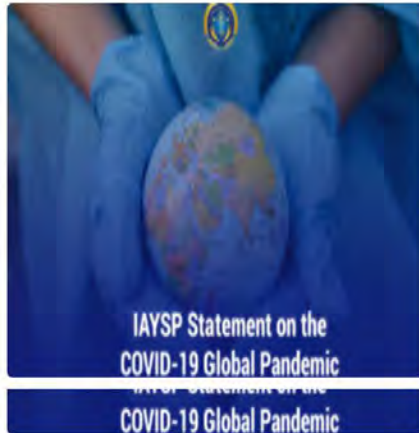


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IAYSP promotes projects supporting the United Nations in two ways. First, service projects are directly linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This connection is both by design and in the project reports. Secondly, many international days, such as the International Youth Day, the International Day of Peace, and the World Interfaith Harmony Week, are celebrated by our chapters throughout the world.

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Unificationists Aim to Transform Plastic Pollution Into Public Beauty

“In America, we generate more than 35 million tons of plastic waste,” said JungHae Joo. “Only 10 percent of plastics in the U.S. are recycled and the rest ends up in our oceans and waterways.”

JungHae, a young Unificationist from New Jersey, was awarded first place in the S!NERGY New Jersey Waterways competition October 2 with her proposal, “Project: Plastic Scenery.” The competition, co-hosted by International Youth and Students for Peace ([IAYSP](#)) and New Jersey Ocean Tribe, was streamed live on Facebook under the theme “Creative Solutions to Accessing and Protecting New Jersey Waterways.” Students were able to present their theme-related ideas to improve society while supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)).

JungHae’s project proposal focused on “ferrofluid,” a reusable substance to target microplastics in water. “Ferrofluid was developed by NASA and it was discovered to remove microplastics from water,” she said. “It’s a magnetic liquid that traps and clumps all the microplastics that are in water together. That clump is removable through magnets.”

JungHae said that since ferrofluid dissolves in oil, compromised water could be processed through a special filtration system that skims oil before adding ferrofluid to it. She also proposed breaking down macroplastics like plastic bottles and cartons into plastic pellets to create benches, park sculptures, speed bumps and more to beautify public spaces.

“This is what I like to call ‘plastic scenery,’” she said, “which is the true and final vision and hope of my project proposal. It is to truly beautify the places that have been tainted by plastic with plastic. It’s about taking back the environmental harm we’ve done and giving back something beautiful instead.”

Placing second in the competition, Asami Maruyama and her team presented the “Trash Trend Project” to tackle trash dumped into local rivers.

"There is a lack of awareness with this and littering has been normalized," she said. "There is also limited access to properly throwing out trash."

Asami proposed reversing the trash dumping trend through social media, referring to digital platforms as the "most effective way of sending a message to the world."

"The 'Angelic Yield' is a social media trend right now of giving back instead of taking," she said. "People post things under hashtags... so through this hashtag algorithm our environmental posts could get shared with groups that have similar objectives, which can spread globally beyond our local community."

Asami said her team hopes to create a viral trend of trash cleanup from all rivers and oceans.

Kai Schnetzer and his team, who placed third, proposed the project "Marine Life Stewardship" to address invasive aquatic species.

"Snakehead fish is an invasive species in our area," he said. "So our strategy is to host fishing tournaments at confirmed locations of where they are invading the Delaware River. This would start as a small fishing group tournament but could potentially grow into a bigger tournament involving many communities."

"We'd also like to collaborate with a professional chef who knows how to cook and prepare snakehead fish so that it can be consumed by all participants," said Kai. "Since 2013, snakehead fishing has already been on the rise so there is a market for this that can be expanded."

The projects were evaluated by guest judges Marc Rogoff, lead education specialist for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Jodi Jamieson, project manager with Hackensack Riverkeeper; and Laurie Howard, executive director of the Passaic River Coalition. Facebook viewers submitted their votes during the live competition, with the winners receiving a cash reward.

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You can learn more about International Youth and Students for Peace [here](#).