

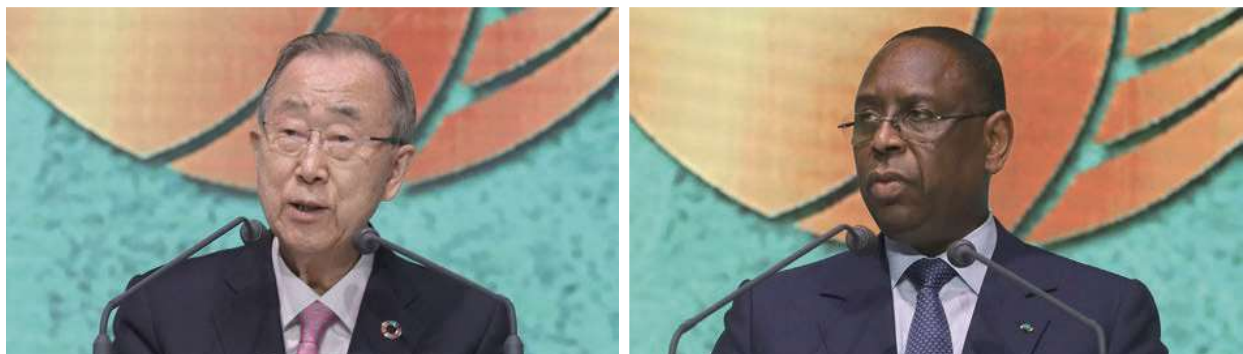
6th Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony held at the Lotte World Hotel in Seoul

Song Yong cheon
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True Parents and award recipients taking a commemorative photo. (From left: Founder's Special Award recipient former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Prophet Samuel Radebe, True Parents, Sunhak Peace Prize Award recipients Green Belt Movement Chairperson Wanjira Mathai, Global Citizen CEO Hugh Evans, and Ashesi University President Patrick Awuah)

The 6th Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony was held on April 11 at the Lotte World Hotel in Songpagu, Seoul. The ceremony was hosted by announcer Shin Young-il and anchor Jung Se-mi, and proceeded with the opening declaration, introduction of the Founder's Special Award recipients, entrance of the laureates, welcoming remarks and introduction of distinguished guests by Thomas Walsh, Chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee, congratulatory remarks by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former Senegalese President Macky Sall, the Sunhak Peace Prize award ceremony, commemorative video screening, Founder's Special Award ceremony, and congratulatory performances.



Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former Senegalese President Macky Sall giving congratulatory addresses

At the award ceremony held under the theme of "Innovation for Peace," the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee (co-chaired by former European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and HJ International Graduate School President Thomas Walsh) honored the achievements of leaders who have presented creative and sustainable solutions to global crises and challenges."

The 6th Sunhak Peace Prize laureates are Wanjira Mathai, Chair of the Green Belt Movement and Regional Director for Africa at the World Resources Institute, Hugh Evans, CEO of Global Citizen, and Patrick Awuah, President of Ashesi University in Ghana. They were recognized for outstanding contributions in the fields of environmental protection and restoration, global citizen solidarity movements, and ethical educational innovation, respectively.

Sunhak Peace Prize Acceptance Speeches

In her acceptance speech, Chair Wanjira Mathai reflected on her work cultivating courageous leadership for global nature restoration and Kenya's environmental conservation. She spoke about peaceful and sustainable efforts to foster harmony between people and the planet. Mathai expressed her gratitude for receiving the award during a particularly challenging time in Kenya, noting the serious climate crisis in Africa amid ongoing political and environmental challenges. She emphasized the importance of building resilience through strategic budget reallocations.

Hugh Evans used his acceptance speech to explore concepts of peace as freedom and dignity, suggesting these must be realized through true citizenship. He cautioned against the dangers of isolationism, advocating instead for greater solidarity. Evans observed how crises emerge when we turn away from confronting shared challenges, emphasizing the need for collaborative action to address global issues.

In his remarks, President Patrick Awuah, Jr. expressed deep gratitude for the honor, accepting it on behalf of young people and citizens across Africa. He drew parallels between Korea's economic transformation in the 1960s and aspirations for Africa, noting how Korea's success became an inspirational model. Awuah described his mission to build self-esteem in African children and promote human rights awareness. He concluded with a message of courage and determination, suggesting that with a common sense of purpose, seemingly impossible goals become achievable.



In his welcoming remarks, Co-Chair Thomas Walsh highlighted how the laureates had actively engaged with history rather than merely observing it from afar, demonstrating world-changing power through their direct involvement. He reflected on how their lives exemplify the remarkable outcomes possible when conviction, compassion, and conscience unite.

The ceremony was elevated by congratulatory messages from prominent world leaders. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid tribute to the laureates' dedicated lives, and spirit of global citizenship.

He expressed appreciation to Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han for her discernment and insight in bringing attention to unsung heroes and fostering international solidarity throughout the past decade.

Former Senegalese President Macky Sall offered his congratulations to the laureates, reflecting on how pursuing peace and humanitarian ideals in our world - exhausted by war, violence, the climate crisis, and persistent inequality - requires faith, goodwill, courage, and patience. He suggested that honoring such individuals should not be just a symbolic gesture but our moral obligation.

Founder's Special Award Acceptance Speeches

The Founder's Special Award was presented to former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan and Prophet Samuel Radebe of South Africa. Former President Goodluck Jonathan was recognized for his contributions to democratic development and peaceful transfer of power. Prophet Samuel Radebe was highly commended for his contributions to interfaith cooperation and the promotion of peace.

In his acceptance speech, former President Goodluck Jonathan reflected on how receiving the Sunhak Peace Prize had reinforced his conviction that peace serves as the essential foundation for development. He expressed his commitment to promoting peace, democracy, and inclusive governance throughout Africa.

Prophet Radebe's acceptance speech explored the spiritual journey as a path for universal rebirth into our authentic selves. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for recognizing those working toward positive global change, suggesting that Dr. Moon's dedication inspires greater effort from all who strive for positive transformation.