

The Launch of Think Tank 2022 and the Organizations that work with it

Young-ho Yoon
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Over several years, True Mother patiently prepared a thorough foundation for the launch of Think Tank 2022. On May 9, at the Rally of Hope for the Launch of Think Tank 2022 and the Realization of a Heavenly Unified Korea, Dr. Young-ho Yoon, in his capacity as the master of ceremonies for the launch, explained that Think Tank 2022 comes on the foundation of the Rallies of Hope and "centering on the organizations UPF launched to realize a lasting world of peace."

These organizations have an important role to play in conjunction with the work of Think Tank 2022.

Knowledge of the work that these organization are doing proves what a heavenly inspired tactician True Mother is. UPF refers to these organizations as their "primary associations." The launching of the primary associations provides a hearty support system for Think Tank 2022 -- strong organizations connected to important people in society that are doing research for and raising public interest in the reunification of the Koreas.

Establishing the primary associations

On February 15, 2016, the launch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) an organization for legislators, took place in the National Assembly Building of the Republic of Korea. On November 13, 2017, the Inter-religious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) for religious leaders, was founded at an Inter-religious Leadership Conference. On February 8, 2019, the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) for heads of state, was founded during World Summit 2019. On February 2, 2020, the International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) for journalists, came into existence during a media conference in Seoul's Lotte Hotel. Three days later, on February 5, 2020, both the International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) and the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) were founded. On April 17, 2021, UPF-Malaysia hosted its second Peace Talk webinar in conjunction with the launch of the International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED) for businesspeople, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital city. Collectively these organizations bring together many brilliant people with a variety of skill sets. Think Tank 2022 is a natural development to emerge based on these earlier organizations.

Primary Associations in Action

IAPP: On April 13, the US branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace held a webinar on the topic, "Humanitarian Aid: Building Trust with North Korea." IAPP featured two speakers with wide knowledge of the need for humanitarian aid in North Korea and an understanding of the wisdom and effort necessary to build trust with North Koreans in order to do the job of helping those that need it. The first was Dr. James W. Jackson, the founder of Project C.U.R.E., the largest distributor of donated medical supplies and medical equipment in the world. Mr. Jackson spent time in North Korea and spoke of some of his honest interaction with DPRK government officials and his experience attending the

eighty-first birthday celebration of Kim Il-sung in 1993. Such personal efforts have helped North Korean people.

Hazel Smith, now a professorial research associate at the Center of Korean Studies, SOAS, University of London, was the second speaker. She worked and lived in North Korea for four years 1998 - 2001 while working with the UN World Food Program and UNICEF. She worked in every province of North Korea.

Dr. Smith was vociferous on the topic of oil sanctions imposed on North Korea and their devastating effects on food production:

In a nutshell, in 2021 we are seeing the resurgence of starvation which could be on a massive scale. The famine in the 1990s was a result of the Soviet Union and China withdrawing subsidized sales of oil to North Korea. North Korea does not produce natural gas or oil. All agriculture is dependent on oil, and North Korea's food self-sufficiency depends on oil. The UN sanctions in December 2017 halted all natural gas exports to North Korea and severely curtailed oil imports. The food production was bound to fall. Humanitarian aid cannot respond to the current scale of aid required. Fertilizer, pesticides and oil need to go in."



IAPD: In Sydney, on March 6 of this year, UPF and the Inter-religious Association for Peace and Development held a webinar entitled, "Toward Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula -- A New Approach." The new approach referred to the personal relationship that True Parents (founders of CAUSA International, an anti-communist organization) were able to forge with both Mikhail Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and with "eternal" Leader Kim Il-sung, chairman of the Central Committee of the North Korean Workers' (Communist) Party. In the case of North Korea, the good relationship extended to Kim Il-sung's son, Kim Jong-il. In explaining this new approach, UPF-Oceania chairman, Rev. Yutaka Yamada, had to mix pragmatic political concepts while conveying True Parents' tender-hearted emotions toward their homeland and the human desire to live as if we are brothers and sisters despite the hostility that seems to characterize North Korea's relations with the world.

IAAP: In Brussels, Belgium, the question of the day was "What Are the Prospects for a Successful Peace Settlement on the Korean Peninsula" The Western Europe branch of UPF joined forces with the International Association of Academicians for peace to pose that question to authorities on relations between North Korea and South Korea at a webinar on November 27, 2020.

Ambassador Marc Vogelaar, an independent international affairs advisor and former diplomat from the Netherlands, spoke first. "The North Korean crisis has lasted for over two generations. Let me summarize the stalemate in five points. The Korean War has not ended; the ceasefire is fragile. The Korean Peninsula remains divided and heavily armed. North Korea has developed nuclear weapons and will not give them up. The international community refuses to accept North Korea as a nuclear weapons state. Neither putting pressure on, nor striking deals with North Korea has shown lasting results so far."

In the words of Professor Glyn Ford, a British academic, Labour Party politician and former member of the European Parliament, "We need some end of war declaration, with the obvious signatories being the real people behind the war: of course, the Chinese, it was the Chinese People's Volunteers that fought, not Beijing officially. It was the United Nations that fought in the South, not the US, but I think the reality is

you need an end of war declaration with South Korea, North Korea, China and the United States, with the possible addition of Russia and Japan. But it seems to me that that's the way forward. It will be a long hard road, but I agree it's a very important one.

IAFLP: UPF has held a couple of peace-focused webinars that included their primary association for First Ladies. About the organization, Dr. Walsh explained, "IAFLP is a project of UPF and the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) in partnership with Women's Federation International." On April 30, IAFLP held a virtual conference -- Women in International Peacemaking and Reconciliation Processes -- during ILC 2021.

Dr. Julia Moon, president of WFWP International, spoke persuasively in her opening address. "Perhaps you are wondering why this conference is dealing with topics related to the Pacific Rim, and more specifically, Korea. Last year was the seventieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, which took the lives of so many loved ones, not only of the Korean people but also of innocent young men and women who came from sixteen nations, including the UK, Belgium, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Turkey to fight for a country and a people they did not even know. Without their sacrifice South Korea would not be the prosperous nation it is today. Seventy long years have passed since the war and yet, still, Korea is a divided nation. Furthermore, the conflict on the Korean Peninsula adversely affects relations among the powers in the East and the West, making this conflict a major obstacle to world peace."

Anneli Jäätteenmäki, the prime minister of Finland in 2003, said, "Women are not often seen in peacekeeping. As Julia Moon said in her opening remarks, "All women in the world should know and realize their own unique value." Achieving peace in the world requires including both men and women. I have a friend that worked in the former Yugoslavia, in Bosnia Herzegovina and Ukraine. Another friend has worked in Afghanistan. Thousands of women work in peacekeeping."

Nayla Moawad, first lady of Lebanon, November 5 - 22, 1989, explained that she had to get into politics because her husband was elected president and was assassinated seventeen days later. She was Minister of Social Affairs 2005 - 2009, Lebanon's first woman minister. "If we want to improve the world," she said, "we must push women to go into politics and be active. Many more women are in Lebanese politics nowadays."



ISCP: On April 29, the European and the Middle East chapter of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) held a webinar entitled, "The Implications for Europe of the Process Toward Peaceful Reunification on the Korean Peninsula -- How Can Europe Assist in That Process"

The moderator, Dr. Werner Fasslabend, the president of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy and a former Austrian minister of defense, emphasized that the Korean Peninsula is situated at the epicenter of world politics and draws the interest of the three great world powers.

Yves Leterme, prime minister of Belgium (3 - 12 2008; 11 2009 - 12 2011) said that the European Union ought to work to resolve the inter-Korean stalemate to prevent a second Korean War, to prevent North

Korea from becoming a nuclear power, to establish a balance of power in Northeast Asia and for the well-being of the North Korean people.

Kjell Magne Bondevik, Norway's prime minister (1997 - 2000; 2001 - 2005) felt a lighter touch would be more effective, such as former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's "Sunshine Policy," in which Kim's administration pursued reconciliation and cooperation with North Korea and sought to trade economic assistance in exchange for improved relations.

Dr. Karin Kneissl, Austria's foreign minister (2017 - 2019), spoke of the Iran Nuclear Deal, which among other nations, the US agreed to. Yet, after a change of presidents, the US withdrew its support. North Korea sees the US as unworthy of trust. Europe has nations with diplomatic connections with the both Koreas and ought to play a larger role in bringing peace between the two Koreas.

Dr. Alexander Zhebin, director of the Center for Korean Studies at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, noted that reunification of the Koreas could only come after a lengthy period of peaceful interaction as separate nations. Economic interaction and peaceful relations would over time rebuild some trust between them.

IMAP: On March 25, 2021, the International Media Association for Peace and UPF, its parent organization, held a joint Zoom conference entitled, "Transition to Peace on the Korean Peninsula: What Confidence Building Measures Are Necessary and Who Can Guide the Process" The moderator, Humphrey Hawksley, a longtime foreign correspondent for the BBC, after expressing appreciation for the quality of the speakers, asked, "Is it possible to create trust between North and South Korea, particularly in today's tense geopolitical climate between their powerful allies, the United States and China"

Jenny Town, a senior fellow at the Stimson Center think tank and co-founder and director of 38 North, a highly informative web journal on North Korea, gave an overview of recent US - North Korean diplomatic history, in light of North Korea's missile development.

Keith Bennett, deputy chairman of the Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il Foundation (KKF) spoke of the problem of periodic changes of leadership in democratic countries causing problems in countries that maintain one leader for decades. He cited liberal South Korean president Kim Dae-jung's "Sunshine Policy" toward North Korea being reversed by his conservative predecessor Roh Moo-hyun. He added that North Korea suffered setbacks in its relations to the US when agreements entered into with the Clinton administration were replaced by "axis of evil" rhetoric by the Bush administration. Mr. Bennet expressed disappointment that progress in relations with North Korea achieved by Donald Trump during his presidency have come to naught.

Aidan Foster-Carter, author in 1992 of Korea's Coming Reunification and in 1994 of North Korea after Kim Il-sung, was cynical about both the US stance toward North Korea (repeating initial steps every few years and never advancing past that) and of North Korea's lack of response to overtures by South Korea's President Moon Jae-in.

Mike Chinoy, one-time CNN Beijing bureau chief, now senior fellow at the Pacific Council on International Policy, advised engaging North Korea in areas it had already officially supported as a UN member state. He also credited North Korea with suspending its rocket and nuclear testing.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, chair of UPF in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East spoke of True Father: "When Reverend Moon sent his envoys to North Korea, he advised them to give respect to all they met. Reverend Moon told them, 'you must give your adversary the respect and dignity you, in your bias, may not think that they deserve! In the long term it is worth it! You can change your adversary into a partner.'"

IAED: Keith Bennett is a consultant specializing in Korean and Chinese affairs. He has long enjoyed a close relationship with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), first visiting the country in 1983. He was the Secretary General of the International Kim Il Sung Foundation (IKF), from its inauguration in Pyongyang, and now serves as Deputy Chairman of its successor organization, the Kim Il Sung Kim Jong Il Foundation (KKF). Mr. Bennett was awarded the Friendship Order of the DPRK by President Kim Il Sung on two occasions. He served for some ten years as the Secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the DPRK in the UK Parliament. Among the initiatives that Mr. Bennett facilitated in this capacity was arranging the DPRK visit of Lord (General Sir Charles) Guthrie, former chief of staff of the British Army, for discussions with the DPRK military; as well as two visits to the UK by Mr. Choe Tae Bok, then Speaker of the DPRK Parliament. Mr. Bennett is also the deputy chairman of the 48 Group Club. The 48 Group was established in 1954 to promote trade and positive relations with China after its founding members led the very first trade mission from any western country to the then newly formed People's Republic the previous year. Consequently, in China, the Group is still highly respected as the "Icebreakers," including by the country's most senior leaders.