

UPF Tokyo, Japan The Inaugural Ceremony of the Peace Road 2021 in Japan

Masayoshi Kajikuri
June 25, 2021



Tokyo, Japan -- The Inaugural Ceremony of the Peace Road 2021 in Japan, held on June 25 in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo and virtually as a webinar, was the second and final session of the ILC2021 -- Japan in June 2021. Approximately 100 cyclists and executive members of the initiative participated in the event. For this year's Peace Road, young people will cycle across the country again in support of promoting friendship between Japan and South Korea, the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula and world peace.

After *UPF-Japan secretary general, Mr. Shunsuke Uotani*, opened the event, guest and *member of the House of Representatives of Japan, Hon. Ichiro Aisawa*, gave a message of encouragement in which he announced that a team of refugees, mainly from the Middle East and Africa, will compete in the Tokyo Summer Olympics and Paralympics and take stage under the UN flag at the opening ceremony. Hon. Aisawa said that their participation would transcend national and cultural boundaries and exemplify how people can overcome difficulties to create a better future. He spoke of how the Peace Road also seeks to help regions overcome challenges and differences and promote cross-cultural understanding.



UPF-Japan chairman, Mr. Masayoshi Kajikuri, in his welcoming remarks on behalf of the organizers,

explained that UPF founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, proposed the concept of the Japan-South Korea Tunnel and International Highway at the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) 30 years ago in 1981. Mr. Kajikuri explicated that the Peace Road is connected to the International Peace Highway project and has become a major initiative spanning the world.

日韓関係が戦後最悪に—3つの主要な背景—

(1) 日本の植民地支配に対する歴史認識の違いと日韓基本条約締結の経緯

(2) 北東アジア情勢の構造的変化と日本の国力の相対的低下
冷戦終結後に経済・安全保障環境が激変、日韓双方が相手国を絶対に必要とはしない関係に。韓国による日本軽視と無関心

(3) 韓国国内における政治状況の変化

①進歩派（左派・民族派）と保守派の政治闘争の激化
②韓国司法界への進歩派の浸透と韓国司法の「積極主義」

新たな戦略目標の共有と戦略的朝鮮半島政策の確立
により日韓関係の再構築が必要

Afterwards the individuals who were nominated to serve on this year's executive committee for the Peace Road in Japan were introduced. All were unanimously approved by the participants. **Amb. Tatsuo Mizuno**, former ambassador of Japan to Nepal, who chaired the executive committee last year, was appointed chairman of the joint committee and gave remarks. Mr. Mizuno suggested incorporating marriage and family -- issues that relate to Japan's declining birthrate -- into the theme of the Peace Road so that more young people may be inspired to lead in the future. He said, "If more young people cared about these issues while promoting the Peace Road, would it not carry more weight and affect more people?" (Since the ceremony, marriage and family has been incorporated into the theme of this year's Peace Road.)

Then, two youths spoke about their experiences participating in last year's Peace Road.

Ms. Nana Sato from Aichi prefecture shared that she initially decided to participate in it because she had been living without a sense of purpose and wanted to change. In the process of taking part in the event, she recognized the importance of creating peace through the goodwill of those who cycled in the event and the support she received from people around her.

Mr. Hiroaki Honda of Nagasaki prefecture has been involved in every Peace Road event since it started in 2013, and he shared how his motivations for participating in and feelings about the Peace Road have evolved over the years. At first he joined just to have a good time, but in recent years he "realized a desire to make others happy leads to the fruition of peace."

Following these messages, *secretary general of the Toyama Prefectural Executive Committee*, **Mr. Mamoru Kamono**, gave a report on last year's Peace Road. In recognition of the sacrifices healthcare workers and others made daily during the pandemic, last year's event focused on gratitude, the value of peace and remembering the lives of those who passed away due to COVID-19. He also related that the Peace Road received support from local governments, the media and religious and public groups.

After Mr. Uotani shared the action plan for the current fiscal year, *senior advisor to UPF-Japan*, **Mr. Sang-il Bang**, gave remarks, saying that "Today, June 25, is the day when the Korean War broke out, and it is a day for us to reconsider the unification of the Korean Peninsula." Mr. Bang explained that Rev. Moon proposed the creation of an International Peace Highway and promoted international marriages as substantial ways to transcend national borders and create peace. Mr. Bang expressed his hope that the Peace Road will play a major role in realizing the vision for peace of Rev. Moon.

The committee members shared their opinions, and afterwards, singer and songwriter Taizan Iioka and his wife, saxophone player Yasumi Tanaka, performed a song. The program concluded with the young cyclists reciting an oath.

To go to the Japan ILC Opening Session report, [click here](#).

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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JAPAN: ILC SESSION I, OPENING SESSION

Written by UPF-Japan

Tuesday, June 22, 2021



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Tokyo, Japan—The Opening Session of UPF's International Leadership Conference 2021 (ILC2021) in Japan, held on June 22, discussed Think Tank 2022, a network of experts from all sectors and areas of expertise who are dedicated to exploring opportunities for Korean reunification, and ways in which Japan can contribute to peace on the Korean Peninsula. The coordinators of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP), International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), and International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) in the country presented at the event, which was attended by around 50 people.

The session began with remarks from *UPF-Japan Chairman* and *ISCP-Japan Coordinator* **Mr. Masayoshi Kajikuri**, who said, "The demarcation line of the 38th parallel, which after the Korean War has played a decisive role in peace and stability in East Asia, including in Japan's postwar reconstruction, cannot be ignored." He pointed out that paradigms for peace and stability in the region cannot be made without considering the issues surrounding the Korean Peninsula, and expressed hope that Think Tank 2022 would gather valuable knowledge going forward.

IAAP-Japan Coordinator **Mr. Kiyoshi Nakayama**, *secretary general of the Professors World Peace Academy in Japan*, outlined the changes that have occurred in the world's civilizations and said that the 21st century ushered in a new age centered on the Pacific Rim. He continued, saying that a country with a free and open political system, that maintains communications with the international community and that has trade relations that benefit all parties will be at the center of this new civilization. In this respect, China could not shoulder this new civilization. Mr. Nakayama also stated that

Japan, a maritime nation which has embraced and helped develop both Eastern and Western civilizations, must continue to play its part. He stressed the urgent need for a strategic policy for the Korean Peninsula to be established through cooperation among Japan, the U.S. and South Korea as well as among the Quad countries (Japan, the U.S., Australia, and India).

One ongoing issue between Japan and South Korea relates to the controversy over school textbooks in both countries. *IAFLP-Japan Coordinator Mrs. Moriko Hori* spoke about the efforts that have been made between the two governments on this so far and pointed out that “government-led joint research neither promotes understanding nor improves relations.” She underscored the need to put more focus on promoting friendly bilateral relations that: 1) consistently encourage mutual understanding by Japan being attentive to assertions made by South Korea while conveying its views and circumstances in a careful manner; 2) promote activities initiated by UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon that foster friendship between Japan and South Korea to political leaders; and 3) carry out activities that can further advance friendship between Japan and South Korea at the private level.

IAPP-Japan Coordinator Mr. Yasushi Matsumoto, secretary general of the Association of Ambassadors for Peace in Japan, introduced the briefings on the Korean Peninsula that were held with members of the Japanese National Diet. He shared a report from a Diet member who spoke about the importance of Japan, the U.S. and South Korea developing a North Korea policy as well as strengthening exchanges and expanding networks between Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians. In addition, the Diet member mentioned his interest in the role of the Japan-South Korea Tunnel project, which one candidate in the recent Busan mayoral election promised to support amid the growing concern in South Korea over China’s hegemony and that “(today’s) Hong Kong and Taiwan [could] become tomorrow’s Korea.”

Following the presentations, comments were received from the participants, many of whom expressed the necessity of reaffirming the interests shared by Japan and South Korea, amid the growing threat from China.

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ILC2021 JAPAN: INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE 'PEACE ROAD'

Written by UPF-Japan
 Friday, June 25, 2021



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