

Kyeng Seuk Lu addresses The Moon Sun Myung Institute's Symposium commemorating the first anniversary of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Seunghwa

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Approximately 400 people participated in the Symposium on Moon Sun Myung held at Sun Moon University in Asan, Korea.

A Symposium that commemorates the one year anniversary of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's *Seonghwa* [Ascension] was held at **Sun Moon University** in Asan, Korea on December 5th, 2013. The symposium successfully finished with approximately 400 participants.

The Moon Sun Myung Institute [which was inaugurated July 2013] hosted this event which included a greeting message by Dr. Sun Jo Hwang, the president of Sun Moon University; a congratulatory message by Rev. Kyeng Seuk Lu, the president of Family Federation of World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)-Korea; the keynote address by Dr. Dae-O Son, the vice-president of Sun Moon University and research announcements and review of Rev. Moon's accomplishments by professors. The event had two sessions. The first session was "Rev. Moon's Significance in Religious History" and the second session was titled "The Social Meaning of Rev. Sun Myung Moon."

Dr. Andrew Wilson, a professor at the **Unification Theological Seminary (UTS)**, started the first session with his talk, "The Significance of Rev. Moon to Christianity." Dr. Thomas Walsh, the international president of **Universal Peace Federation (UPF)**, presented "The Significance of Rev. Sun Myung Moon to Islam." Prof. Hang Je Kim, honorary professor at Sun Moon University, presented "The Significance of Rev. Sun Myung Moon to New Religions in Korea". During the Second session, **Dr. Frank Kauffmann**, the president of Filial Projects, presented "The Significance of Rev. Sun Myung Moon to the United States." Prof. Masahisa Hayashi, honorary professor in **Waseda University**, presented "The Significance of Rev. Sun Myung Moon to Japan." Prof. Dong Gyu Kim, honorary professor of Korea University, presented "The Significance of Rev. Sun Myung Moon to Korea."



Dr. David Carlson (left) and Dr. Andrew Wilson (right) were some of the many presenters at the symposium about Rev. Moon's legacy.

The Need for Research on Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Realms of Thought

President Sun Jo Hwang said in his greeting, "I'm glad that our university was able to hold the event that presents the life, thoughts and accomplishments of a man who worked his whole life for the prosperity and peace of humankind and for the realization of global peace for all humankind. We will continue to support the study of the accomplishments and thoughts of Rev. Moon, a person who lived his own words."

Dr. Dae-O Son said during his keynote address, "Rev. Moon encountered limitations of environment and time when it came to realizing his thoughts, ideas and values to their fullest extents but, amazingly, he accomplished so many things through sheer willpower and through the power of his execution. We should not only study his accomplishments but his thoughts as well."

Dr. Wilson, One of the presenters, wrote to Unification News sharing his reasons for participating in this symposium: "I am a professor at the Unification Theological Seminary, which has a proud tradition of advancing Rev. Moon's work in the West. I believe in the importance of East-West communication, so that Koreans in particular can view Rev. Moon from a wider perspective than what is ordinarily available in Korea. I attended because I thought I could contribute something to that perspective." He also said, "Its [the symposium's] results showed that the real work of documenting his legacy has just barely begun, and it will take years to complete. I believe that the Institute will be conducting many such symposia in the future and will publish many books and articles about Rev. Moon's legacy. This work is very much needed given the current state of ignorance about him in the wider society."