

## UPF-Japan holds an International Leadership Conference (ILC) in Tokyo

Seichi Kikuya  
November 11, 2016



*In Sup Park [Moon], vice-president of FFWPU International, spoke to a group of young people at the International Leadership Conference in Japan.*

UPF-Japan held an International Leadership Conference (ILC) in Tokyo on November 11 and from November 16 to 17 under the auspices of UPF-Japan and the Institute for Peace Policies (IPP).

Among the eight hundred guests attending the ILC and launching of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) were parliamentarians, diplomats and former diplomats; academic, religious, NGO and youth leaders; representatives from the media, and ambassadors for peace.

The conference addressed a wide range of international issues, including those related to the United States, Europe, Russia and the Middle East. Discussions also covered the role of youth in Japan's future. The keynote speeches and comments from experts as well as from the audience led to substantive debates.

### **Peace Diplomats Forum**

The first program of the ILC was a Peace Diplomats Forum on "Europe's Future Prospects Regarding Refugees, Terrorism and Rising Nationalism," which took place on November 11 at a hotel. An initiative of UPF-Japan, the forum regularly brings foreign diplomats together with Japanese diplomats, experts, representatives from business and UN officials to exchange views on achieving peace. About seventy people, including forty diplomats; among them, ambassadors and charge d'affaires; members of the National Diet (Japan's bicameral legislature); foreign ministry officials; and academics, attended the forum.

In his welcoming remarks, UPF-Japan's chair, Dr. Yong Cheon Song, introduced the Japan–Korea undersea tunnel and the International Peace Highway, two projects proposed by UPF's founder Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and quoted from "World Peace by Dismantling National Borders," a speech Dr. Moon gave at the UN Headquarters in New York in 2000.

Referring to Donald Trump's victory in winning the presidential election in America, a member of the Diet's upper house, in his congratulatory remarks, stressed the importance of Japan and the US further strengthening mutual trust.

### **European state of affairs**

At the forum, the keynote address, which a university professor delivered, reviewed the European Union's (EU) achievements and the challenges the EU has faced as it has expanded. The dismantling of Europe's borders has allowed many countries to join the pan-European project peacefully, accelerating democratization and enhancing liberty. The massive inflow of migrants and refugees, mainly from the Middle East, however, presents a risk to the future of the EU; the refugee and migrant crises can potentially divide democracies in a multilateral society, the professor remarked. European countries need to integrate more closely, the professor concluded.

In the discussion that followed the keynote address, diplomats from several countries grappling to cope

with the refugee crisis or grappling with challenges associated with democratization -- including Sudan, Syria, Germany, Ethiopia and China -- raised questions and made comments. At the end of the program, diplomats from Ethiopia and Afghanistan were appointed as ambassadors for peace.



### **Opening session**

The ILC began with opening remarks by Dr. Masahisa Hayashi, professor emeritus of Waseda University and board member of IPP, who explained the significance of the conference. He described this time as one of uncertainty, as demonstrated by Brexit, the UK's vote to leave the EU, the outcome of the recent U.S. presidential election and South Korea's political crisis. He urged stronger collaboration between Japan, the US and South Korea.

Dr. Song of UPF-Japan spoke about the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, a project of UPF launched in February this year in the Korean National Assembly building.

The keynote address, the UPF Co-Founder's Address from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, was delivered by her daughter, Dr. Sun Jin Moon. Dr. Moon elaborated on UPF's vision and work for peace: UPF has been engaged in "promoting interfaith cooperation, strengthening the family, supporting the mission of the United Nations, humanitarian service and advocating soft power approaches to peace and conflict resolution." The Sunhak Peace Prize, for example, was established to honor individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service to humanity and make the world better for future generations.

Referring to the phenomena of terrorism, street demonstrations and corruption, which have agitated hatred and tarnished confidence in society, she emphasized that our world badly needs transparency and a balancing of things. "I have learned from my parents that we must live not for ourselves but for the sake of the world. This philosophy guides us even to higher governance. Neither right-wing nor left-wing, but head-wing thought will direct us to realizing one human family and everlasting peace centering on true love," she said. She also expressed her appreciation for the work UPF-Japan has done: it is like "an engine that drives the work of UPF globally, providing leadership and setting the highest standards of best practices."

### **New US administration**

The moderator of the first session, a former professor of international development and peace, outlined three shifts that have occurred in the world: America's shift in interest from Russia to China; increased frequency of terrorism-related conflicts because of clashes of civilizations; and more than a hundred countries having achieved independence from colonial rule. "In this turbulent era, the impact of the American presidential race could act like a trigger. Japan will have to fundamentally question its choices," he said.

### **The US election**

In his keynote speech to the packed audience of about two hundred and fifty people, Mr. Bill Gertz, a columnist at the Washington Times, reflected on Donald Trump's unexpected election as the U.S. president. Dr. Gertz explained, "The national defense-related scandals under the (Bill) Clinton administration invited China's military buildup, causing the current national security problems. Many American citizens seem to recognize the difficult times ahead, casting their votes not exactly for Dr. Trump but in opposition to President Obama and (Hillary) Clinton."

Regarding the President-elect's policies, Mr. Gertz said, "Mr. Trump's remarks during the campaign and

his actual policies should be distinguished. According to my experiences, America's federal government is like a gigantic tanker; changing its course is not easy." Mr. Gertz noted that Mr. Trump has since adjusted comments he made earlier about Japan.

Regarding Mr. Trump's political ideas, Mr. Gertz said that the president-elect has admiration for the political dynamism of the Reagan administration and its engagement in the struggle against communism. Concerning America's China policy, Mr. Gertz talked about America's misguided notion that as long as America engages China in trade and commerce, China's communist systems will evolve into something less threatening to the world. Mr. Trump deems such a notion as untrue.

In addition, Mr. Gertz expressed, "While China is an important trade partner, America will never alter its principles or belief for the sake of business. Mr. Trump aspires to peace through strength, so he is rather tolerant to military expansion."

The massive use of social media tools in the presidential campaigns this time, particularly by the Trump camp, would be a good subject of future studies by political scientists, Mr. Gertz noted.



*Sun Jin Moon*



*Bill Gertz*

### **Social shifts and leaders' influence**

A Japanese commentator, who previously was a researcher at a prestigious American think tank, cautioned that in Japan we do not properly understand America's social shifts. She said, "During the cold war and the post-cold war period, America's homeland was never threatened. The 9/11 incident changed this, obliging increased budgets for 'America First' elements against threats. America perceives the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) in terms of its national security. Mr. Trump, however, perceives it as a domestic issue." She urged the audience to pay attention to the shifts that are taking place in the Republican Party.

Mr. David Kilgour, a former Canadian secretary of state, regarding China's threats, warned, "The Democratic system of government is being challenged. I do hope the world will be governed by the forces of peace." The session moderator added -- one) A politician changes face from a campaigner to an administrator; two) America will most likely carry forward policies based on social trends; three) Japan will be challenged over how it contributes to the world. He concluded the session by saying, "Following the Meiji Restoration, three great thinkers influenced Japan -- Yukichi Fukuzawa (1835–1901), Tenshin Okakura (1863– 1913) and Inazo Nitobe (1862–1933). A fourth thinker is highly anticipated in this turbulent time, when we should reconsider Japan's role in the world."

### **Japan – Russia Relations**

As anticipation for the Japan-Russia summit on December 15 grows, Dr. Vladimir Petrovskiy, chief academic researcher at the Russian Academy of Military Science, noted that this year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of the Soviet–Japanese Joint Declaration (1956) as well as the sixty-fifth anniversary of the conclusion of the San Francisco Peace Treaty (1951).

He pointed out that existing territorial disputes and national security issues stem from diverse interpretations of relevant international treaties.

Concerning the dispute between Russia and Japan over the Northern Territories or Southern Kuril Islands off Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's main islands, Dr. Petrovskiy said, "Territorial matters are sacral for both countries," and noted that Russia deals with territorial issues and economic cooperation as separate matters. He stressed the importance of mutual economic cooperation, between the two countries and good communication among their ambassadors of peace.

## **IAPP-Japan**

The special session, "The Role of Parliamentarians for World Peace," was the final one of the ILC and took place on November 17 in a conference room in the Diet facilities. About a hundred people, including dozens of members of the Diet attended the program.

Although the Diet was in session, many of its members joined the event. One member of the House of Representatives (the lower house of the Diet) expressed his aspiration for new roles for parliamentarians. He said, "We are in an uncertain and tumultuous world. But this may be a blessing in disguise, if we all can open a new path by mustering our dedication and wisdom for a better world."

Dr. Song of UPF-Japan spoke about the significance of the session, which we designed especially for the parliamentarians. "This format is the brainchild of Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founders of UPF, in their aim for genuine peace overcoming narrow national interests, age-old walls between civilizations and the modern division between religion and politics."

Dr. Sun Jin Moon, chair of UPF International, delivered a message on behalf of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. In her message, Mrs. Moon emphasized the role of parliaments and their members, saying, "You are servants of the people and as such are expected to serve the public good, guided by the basic principles of good governance -- accountability, transparency, collegiality, inclusivity and respect for human rights and the rule of law...."

"Good governance is secured not only by the policies and laws of the political system. It is also necessary that those who hold positions of power be people of good character, guided by their conscience and universal moral principles."

Mrs. Moon also introduced the founders' vision for peace and highlighted various peace projects initiated by the UPF founders. She appealed to the parliamentarians to preserve the environment. Furthermore, she made specific proposals for the creation of an inter-religious council at the United Nations and of a fifth UN office, on the Korean peninsula. Dr. Moon concluded Mrs. Moon's message by saying, "If parliamentarians of the world can join together in harmony and cooperation for the sake of peace, we can transform the current reality of our world, creating a world of joy, harmony and lasting peace."

Dr. Thomas Walsh addressed the important roles of parliamentarians, particularly for peace and human development. He explained the vision of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace and added that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon had proposed the creation of an international network of parliamentarians. He expressed his anticipation for the initiative: "IAPP will assemble parliamentarians committed to world peace who can build bridges of trust among their nations." He reported that the IAPP has been launched in several regions of the world.

## **Accepting responsibility**

Representing the parliamentarians from overseas, MK Bar of Israel appealed to the Japanese parliamentarians in this way: "In a ten-hour flight from Tokyo, you will be in the Middle East, [which is] still plagued by violence and conflict. Please pay close attention to that part of the world!" He pledged, as a representative of Israeli citizens, "I will fulfill my responsibility for world peace!" Many participants including members of the Diet signed the proposal to establish the IAPP in Japan.

