

UPF Helsinki, Finland webinar looks back on 2020 and UPF activities this year

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November 29, 2020



Helsinki, Finland -- UPF-Finland held a webinar to look back on 2020 and review UPF activities held this year.

Among the international events mentioned at the November 29, 2020, online meeting were World Summit 2020, the Peace Talks held between April and September, and the Rallies of Hope. The participants discussed the impact of these international events on UPF activities in Finland.

A video of highlights of the latest Rally of Hope from November 22 was shown. The rally ended with UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's passionate appeal to take care of the natural environment and to preserve it for future generations.

Two of the three VIPs from Finland who had attended the World Summit 2020 in Korea joined the meeting: former Prime Minister Anneli Jäätteenmäki and Hon. Kimmo Sasi, a member of Finland's parliament and a former government minister. There were about a dozen other participants, including Mikael Schöld and Lorenz Jolin from UPF-Sweden.

The conclusion of the discussion was that UPF needs to put into practice the many good resolutions made at the summit in Korea. The various UPF branches need to work together in order to carry out substantial projects, i.e., cooperation with Africa.

Toward the end, Mr. Sasi gave a ten-minute talk on the topic "The Role of Public Administration in a Democracy in Exceptional Times Such as These." He assessed the risk of governments (the executive) using emergency situations as an excuse to exceed their constitutional powers and lose constraint in public spending.

At the discussion the controlling role of other institutions of the state, as well as that of media, was addressed.



The participants emphasized the importance of continuing UPF cooperation with peer organizations, such as the African expatriate association AFAES (Africans and African European Association).

In our internal evaluation after the webinar we noted the need for a smoother use of technology, greater use of diagrams and pictures in the presentation, and enabling more participants to speak.

