

**In spite of all of our differences, we have come here to seek peace and harmony**

Anote Tong

February 10, 2019

True Parents' Birthday Congratulatory Address



Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Father and Mother Moon, your excellencies, heads and former heads of state and government, my brothers and sisters, let me begin with a traditional greeting from my part of the world, *Kam na mauri*, meaning, May you be blessed.

Many of us have come to Korea from different parts of the world at the invitation of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Mother Moon to attend the 2019 World Summit to deliberate on global peace, security and human development. We have come from different walks of life, from our different countries. We have come from different racial and ethnic background. We have come from different religious persuasions. Yet in spite of all that, in spite of all of our differences, we have dared to come here with the grand ambition, to seek peace and harmony for all of humanity, with ambition to make this world a better place, not just for us today but more importantly for our grandchildren and for their grandchildren's children.

Yesterday we also had the opportunity to attend the Sun Hak Peace Prize awards ceremony for 2019 and we witnessed the recognition of the dedication and the great work of two very worthy recipients who

dared dream of making this world a better place for those whose lives they've touched. Once again, we offer most sincere congratulations for these extremely outstanding individuals.

This world of ours is full of many challenge starting within the home with domestic abuse and violence, female genital mutilation, poverty and hunger discrimination in all of its forms, the looming thread of world war III, the impending cataclysmic effects of climate change and so forth. The question of peace is: Will we ever be able to find salvation? Will we ever achieve our ambition of achieving peace and harmony, which we seek? Will we ever be able to make this world a good place for all? Does humanity have a future? These are the questions.



A further question is: Is there a key that would unlock the answer to these pressing questions and if so, where is it? For almost two decades now in my ongoing search for solutions to the existing threat posed by climate change to those of us on the front line of this catastrophe, mostly for those of us on low-lying island countries in middle of the Pacific and elsewhere in those communities that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

I have often asked these questions but to date, I have not been able to find the answer. I search for a way to touch the heart and the soul of people, hoping that the answers might be there.

So this brings me to our agenda for today. Today we are here to join in celebrating an event which has impacted the four corners of the world: the birth of Father and Mother Moon, the founders of the Universal Peace Federation. We also celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of UPF... [Foundation Day.] Our very presence here over the last few days, our presence at the Sun Hak Peace Prize Award Ceremony yesterday and our coming here today is testimony to the effect of that impact. On behalf of all of us here today and on behalf on those who are unable to be here but nevertheless subscribe to your legacy, to your vision, to your mission, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Reverend and Madame Moon, Father and Mother Moon for your enduring and selfless sacrifice and your commitment to peace building. Your work has touched the lives of people in different parts of the world.

So I take this opportunity on your behalf to thank God for his gift in giving you to us, in giving you to the world. [Applause] We congratulate you both on this special day and we thank you for the most precious gift of all, which you have shared with us, your legacy and your values, to live for the sake of others, to live as one family under God. In return, there is nothing we can give you, but our gift to you is to embrace these values, the legacy and the values that you have given us and make a commitment to passing this legacy and these values to others. I believe that herein lies the key to the answers that continue to elude us, the answers that we continue to seek. Rev. Madam Moon, Rev. Father Moon, happy birthday, and may God bless you and bless all of us.