

UTS Global Alumni Confer at International Leaders Assembly in Chung Pyung

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UTS alumni from around the globe gather at the HyoJeong Cafe

At the invitation of [Family Federation International](#) Vice President Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Rev. Franco Famularo, Chair of the [UTS Board of Trustees](#), gathered some 35 (UTS) alumni for a meeting at the [HyoJeong Cafe](#) on the [HJ Cheonwon campus](#) of the Unification movement, some 35 miles outside of Seoul, Korea. The event took place on the evening of February 13.

The participants were [Unification movement](#) leaders from throughout the world who had gathered for the movement's International Leaders' Assembly on the occasion of the celebration of the UTS Founders' birthdays and the sixth anniversary of the movement's Foundation Day.

The meeting went nearly 90 minutes. Welcomed by Dr. Kim's sincere and inspiring greeting that set the tone of openness and positivity, participants were engaged, constructive and passionate. One expressed that the UTS experience changed their life, and all murmured agreement. Others noted how a large number of international Unification leaders are UTS grads. We were aware that the group that could gather represented a fraction of the many UTS alumni from Korea and Japan in the area, who had other schedules, and those who were leading the [Universal Peace Federation](#) (UPF) inter-religious and international conferences, and the [International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences](#) (ICUS) and "God-Science" conferences, in Seoul.

At the HyoJeong Cafe gathering, the Europe/Middle East region had close to ten participants including Regional Group Chair, Dr. Michael Balcomb, Regional President, Northern Europe, Dr. David Hanna, Regional President, Middle East, Mrs. Marylyn Angelucci, the UPF Secretary General for the Middle East, David Fraser Harris, and Rev. Hugo Veracx, the national leader of Belgium. Three current [UTS-Online](#) students, the national leader of Albania, Gani Rroshi, his wife Marjeta, and Manjola Vasmatics and her husband attended.

Dr. Robert Kittel and Tarig Babikir represented the Asia-Pacific region. Several leaders represented Africa, including Dr. Abdou Gaye, Rev. Abdoulaye Wone, Rev. Philbert Seka, Dr. Abdelmoumin Ahmed, Rev. Moruti Ledweba, Rev. Augustin Ghomsi, and Rev. Emmanuel Tanui.

At least 14 attended from North America, including Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Revs. Richard Buessing, Larry Krishnek, John Jackson, Ernest Patton, Kazuo Takami, Kevin Thompson, Inguk Seo and Dr. David Eaton and Dr. Tyler Hendricks.



Rev. Franco Famularo, Chair of the UTS Board of Trustees addresses the alumni

From Canada we welcomed Dr. Moonshik Kim Rev. Jong Deug Yoo, Rev. Katsumi Kambashi, Rev. Ratna Thillairajan and Rev. Franco Famularo.

Rev. Famularo invited Dr. Kittel to give the opening prayer, and then Dr. Ki Hoon Kim to give opening

remarks. Dr. Kim pointed out the great financial investment that [True Father](#), and now the American Unification movement, has made in UTS, and that we need to see the real results of that investment continue and multiply at this time.

Rev. Famularo pointed out that the great value of UTS is that it is an accredited American degree, which is recognized throughout the world.

The Albanian leaders present lifted up the value of the [online courses](#) on [Divine Principle](#), True Parents life and teachings, Islam, pastoral leadership and true family values. They noted with gratitude that without the online presence, and the scholarship support of both UTS and European HQ, this education would be beyond their reach.

Alumni in general stated that UTS made a tremendous difference in their lives and that all Unification leaders benefit from and need to have a UTS education.

Dr. Kittel stated the need for a "Heavenly Tribal Messiah [HyoJeong](#) Education Program" with which [tribal messiahs](#) can train newly [blessed couples](#), especially through small groups. The field needs education on how to be a heavenly tribal messiah and how to equip newly blessed couples to be the same.

Rev. Philbert Seka voiced concern for a lack of placement services. People graduate and have no employment opportunities. In discussion, we realized that subsequent employment is more the responsibility of the Unification movement than of UTS. Nonetheless, UTS needs to cooperate with the movement on this task.

Albanian UTS-Online students stated that they all have full-time missions and it is very, very difficult to finish the online courses in eight weeks. Some have to drop out because of time pressure. They request longer terms for online classes. The same request has come from American UTS-Online students who were not at the meeting. They request that the courses be taught over twelve weeks.

Another solution that came up at our meeting could be to provide 2-week on-site intensives, with the students being granted those two weeks of time off from their work/mission positions. African leaders in particular encouraged the implementation of on-site 2-week intensives, and stated that they could recruit many students.

It was pointed out that online teaching is not a total solution for some regions, due to lack of Internet service (Africa) or government restrictions (Middle East).



Albanian student Manjola Vasmatics shares her experience with online education

Some alumni argued that UTS education is for movement leaders, and therefore the solution is simple: the Unification movement should require that young pastors attend UTS and provide them the scholarship support necessary for them to do so. We all know that this was exactly the Founder's practice.

It was pointed out that just as Father Moon strongly promoted UTS, there is a need to invest more in marketing. Also, that education of the Unification movement's leadership is a global issue and should be approached with a global perspective by the global level leadership cooperating together.

So, it was a constructive and practical discussion. Dr. Kim closed by proposing that this international alumni gathering take place twice a year. It was great to mingle among generations of students from over the decades, from the second graduating class to current UTS-Online students. Continents, races, nations and different religious backgrounds, were united by True Parents' love, sharing our UTS experience in common. All expressed their gratitude to Dr. Kim for organizing this meeting, and were in agreement to convene again every [Foundation Day](#) and [Seonghwa Anniversary](#), when UTS alumni gather in Korea for international meetings.