

UPF Phnom Penh, Cambodia: ILC Cambodia 2023 - Executive Report

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Mother Moon addresses the delegates during the ILC Opening Session.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia - To support practical steps towards building a culture of peace, democracy, good governance and development, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), in cooperation with the Asian Vision Institute (AVI), supported by the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP), convened the International Leadership Conference (ILC) Cambodia in Phnom Penh from July 21 to 24, 2023.

As many as 253 participants from 50 nations, including seven current and former heads of state and government, 45 parliamentarians and 15 organizations, came together in-person to deliberate on the theme "Peace and Democracy" and to be observers of Cambodia's 2023 general election. A total of 2,319 people watched the livestream of the conference via iPeaceTV and YouTube.



Clockwise: Dr. Charles S. Yang, Dr. Song Yong-cheon, Mr. Koji Matsuda, Rev. Masaichi Hori, Mrs. Moriko Hori, Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal

ILC Cambodia provided an ideal opportunity for UPF and AVI to further develop their partnership as they explored important projects with a special emphasis on the Asia Pacific Union (APU) initiative and Universal Peace Charter (UPC). This initiative is based on the common vision for peace and prosperity of UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and Cambodia's Prime Minister H.E. Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

In his inaugural message to the conference, H.E. Sen affirmed: "My experience has taught that it is only peaceful means - open and sincere peace talks and mutual consultation - that ensure the realization of peace. Through years of experience, they taught us that we cannot use war to end war."

In her Founder's message, Dr. Moon stated that "Unity and world peace can only be achieved by acknowledging and attending the Creator and Owner of this universe as our Parent... There is a path for humanity to move toward a singular objective through the Asian continent, which serves as the bedrock of Asia's spiritual civilization."

The welcome dinner on July 21 was hosted by the government of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Entertainment for this event featured beautiful Cambodian music and dance and included the World Expo 2030 Busan, Korea Promotional Team. The speakers that evening welcomed the guests, some of who had travelled for 30 hours, and raised the expectations that this conference would be a unique and enriching experience for everyone.



Women Leaders Session

Session I began after lunch the following day on July 22 with the theme "Peace and Democracy." Representing the ILC Cambodia Organizing Committee was Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, a member of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Nepal, and Bundit Sapheacha Dr. Sok Siphana, chairman of the board of directors of the Asian Vision Institute, who warmly welcomed the participants. This was followed by a video message from UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.



ILC Cambodia 2023 Participants

Dr. Charles S. Yang, chairman of UPF, stated that the era of the Pacific civilization has dawned and that the emerging Asian civilization will usher in a complementary age of spirituality centered on universal values rooted in the family. Hon. Dan Burton, a former member of the United States Congress (1983-2013) and co-chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), commended Dr. Moon for creating IAPP, which he sees as one of the most needed bodies for peace. H.E. Tep Ngorn, second vice-president of the Senate of Cambodia, concluded the session with his remarks in which he said

that peace is the precondition for all development, including democracy, good governance and economic development.

Session II was on the theme "Peace, Democracy, Good Governance and Development: Towards a Culture of Peace in Asia-Pacific and the World." Distinguished world leaders delivered keynote addresses which focused particularly on the crucial role of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in maintaining peace and harmony in the world. The following speakers shared their wisdom and expertise based on their experiences serving as national and global leaders:



Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend, former speaker of the Parliament (2000-2002) and defense minister (1987-1990, 1990-2000) of Austria

[Click here for the full intervention of Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend.](#)

H.E. Goodluck Jonathan, president of Nigeria (2010-2015) and chair of the International Summit Council for Peace-Africa

H.E. Jimmy Morales, president of Guatemala (2016-2020) via video message



H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, prime minister of Nepal (2015-2016, 2018-2021)

H.E. Yusuf Raza Gilani, prime minister of Pakistan (2008-2012)

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, president (2015-2019) and member of the Parliament of Sri Lanka

H.E. Andres Pastrana Arango, president of Colombia (1998-2002)

Dr. Song Yong-Cheol, international president, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)



Cambodian press interviewing former Prime Minister of Nepal H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli at a polling station on the election day.

In Session III, several peace initiatives that were proposed and resolutions that were adopted during UPF's World Summit 2022 and Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference were discussed. Specifically, the Asia Pacific Union initiative, Universal Peace Charter, the "Two States Toward One Nation: One Peninsula, One People, One Culture" initiative and the "Global Vision Toward One Planet, One Humanity, One Global Culture of Peace" initiative were deliberated on in detail.



Group Photo with the ILC VIP Speakers

Afterwards, the Presidency Handover Ceremony of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace took place, signifying the transfer of leadership to Hon. Suos Yara. The event marked an important moment in IPTP's history and showcased its commitment to promoting tolerance and peace under its new leadership.

Hon. Khuon Sudary, chairperson of the Asian Cultural Council and vice president of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, who presided over the ceremony, commended the appointment of Hon. Suos as the next president of IPTP and praised Cambodia's remarkable progress in the areas of peace, stability and development. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan, president of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), announced that a regional office of the GCTP for the Asia Pacific region will be set up in Cambodia to implement a number of projects and activities, including the Universal Peace Charter, food security and international trade in the Mekong region and beyond.

The day concluded with a dinner hosted by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On July 23, Mrs. Moriko Hori, international president of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an affiliated organization, chaired a special session for women leaders in recognition of the need to strengthen women's roles in fostering a culture of peace.



In the same afternoon, a high-level session of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace provided an invaluable platform for lawmakers, experts and diplomats to deliberate on the successful election in Cambodia, the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and the pursuit of peace between Russia and Ukraine.

A special International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) dinner was hosted in honor of the participating former heads of state and government, during which H.E. Sirisena was appointed as the new chair of the ISCP in the Asia Pacific region.



The participants had the privilege to observe another historic election of members of the Cambodian National Assembly for the Seventh Legislature, which marked the 30th anniversary of the first general election held in 1993. During a press conference the morning of July 24, leaders representing the ISCP, IAPP or their national delegation shared their observations on this year's election process and testified to the progressive development and maturity of Cambodian democracy.



Dr. Charles S. Yang and Dr. Song Yong-choen present the appointment certificate as ISCP Chair of Asia Pacific to H.E. Maithripala Sirisena

The visit to the genocide museum deeply impacted the conference participants. Cambodia's democratization journey since the end of its civil war over 45 years ago showcases the value of peace and national stability. The participants reached an understanding that interdependence, mutual prosperity and shared values shall be upheld. Furthermore, six elements were highlighted to foster "comprehensive peace," such as shared prosperity, a just and fair international order, human rights and fundamental freedoms, fostering a safe planet for future generations and inclusive education.



Dr. Charles S. Yang led the UPF delegation visiting the Killing Field Memorial and prayed for the souls of victims and perpetrators .



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Written by: UPF Europe and Middle East

17 August 2023

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The war in Ukraine has become a game changer in European and global politics. For the first time after world war II, a conventional war against a sovereign state namely Ukraine, a founding member of United Nations, was launched in Europe by Russia, a permanent member of the UN Security Council. This aggression changed fundamentally the existing European security order since the end of the cold war more than 30 years ago. As a consequence, neutral countries like Finland and Sweden (the latter had a neutral status for more than 200 years) decided to join NATO in order to benefit from the protection of the alliance in the case of future aggression by neighboring Russia.

Practically all European countries acted solidarily with the invaded Ukrainian nation state. They cut their intense and friendly political and economic relations with Russia. At the same time, they decided to increase their military budgets for the coming years in order to be better prepared against a potential aggressor Russia:

military aggression must not be allowed to become successful or it will never end. The consequence of this fatal situation is a need, especially for smaller and medium sized countries, to strengthen their military capabilities and to cooperate with others, in order to prevent the outbreak of a military war in their neighborhood. It will be necessary to make it obvious and clear that military aggression by bigger powers will not be profitable anymore.

The development and strengthening of a political union like the European Union has changed fundamentally European security. The members of the E.U. discuss, decide and cooperate successfully together on the strategic and political situation of the continent. The same will be true for other greater regions on the globe like the Southeastern Asian Nations with ASEAN. The concentration of imminent challenges and crises like the nuclear threat in North Korea, the possible outbreak of war in Taiwan, and the dangers for free navigation in the South China Sea deserve the development of a common security policy for the whole region.

Cambodia can play an important role for the security, stability and growth of the Southeast Asian region and for the present and future sovereignty and independence of ASEAN states.

Peace and stability are and will remain the precondition for the wellbeing of people all over the world; therefore it is our common interest to engage and if necessary to fight for peace.

