



ILC2016



★ ★ ★ INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ★ ★ ★

ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME

**The Role of Government,
Civil Society and
Faith-Based Organizations**

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 1, 2016

SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR PEACE**

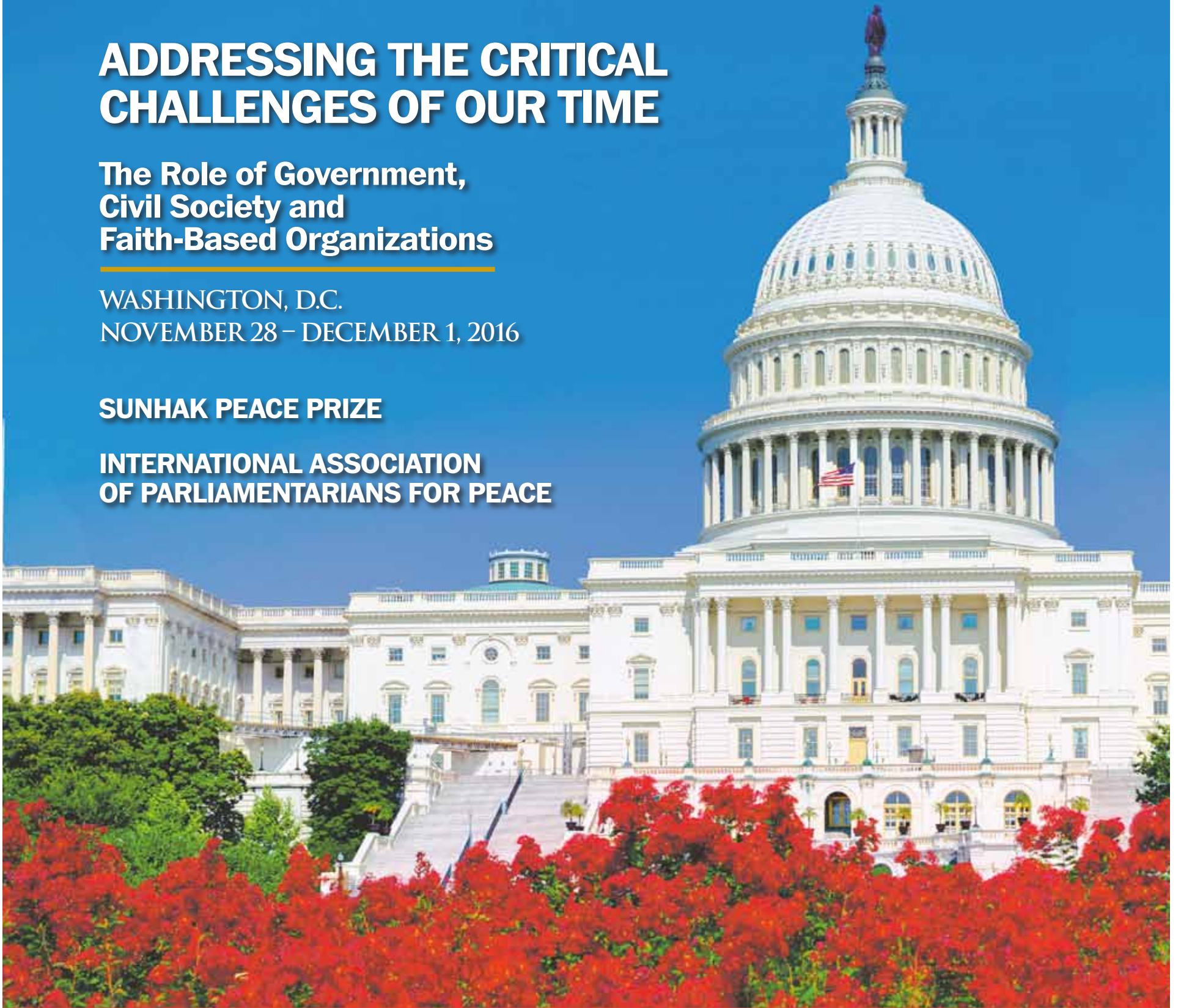


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JW Marriott — Washington, D.C.



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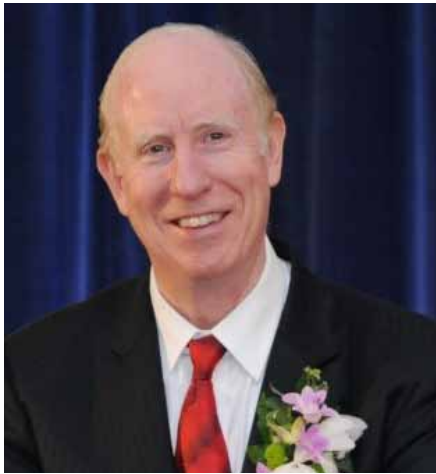
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ILCs: Building a wide network to solve critical global problems



By Dr. Thomas G. Walsh

The International Leadership Conference series, a flagship project of the Universal Peace Federation, serves as a convener of leading stakeholders from throughout the world who are committed to a search for realistic and pragmatic solutions to critical global problems. Drawing on the assets and expertise of people from all sectors — government, civil society, faith-based organizations, academia, the private sector, etc. — the ILC represents a collaborative approach to peace.

As an NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the UPF has an established presence on every continent. It is building a wide network of individuals and organizations who seek to work together by going beyond divisions of nationality, ethnicity, race, religion, and even political ideology, underscoring the common humanity of all people and living in one world, our common home.

The critical challenges the ILC participants are addressing include the devastating impact of climate change; the rise of extremist ideologies, both religious and political; the ongoing problem of extreme poverty; and the essential importance of good governance, not only for governments, but for all sectors of society, including the non-governmental sector, the faith-based sector and the education sector.

Earlier this year, UPF launched the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, building on a foundation of work with parliamentarians over the past decade. The launch of the IAPP represents an effort to provide an informal network of parliamentarians who can work together collaboratively for the sake of peace and human development.

The 2016 ILC series has included the regional-level launch of the IAPP in venues around the world, including Nepal, Burkina Faso, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Zambia, Japan, and concluding in the United States.

Parliamentarians are uniquely qualified to serve as advocates for peace and human development. As representatives of the people, they stand as mediators between government and civil society. Their experiences with the practical challenges related to law-making and public policy give them a unique set of skills and insights that are required in building a world of lasting peace.

IAPP will provide a forum for parliamentarians from all nations and political parties, allowing them to come together in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation in order to search for solutions to local, national, regional and global problems.

IAPP understands that there are many very important organizations and

associations of parliamentarians around the world, some formally organized as intergovernmental bodies and others informally associated. IAPP intends to work in a collegial, cooperative and supportive way with other parliamentary organizations wherever there is mutual interest and shared concern. The same spirit of support and cooperation applies to the mission and work of the United Nations, which IAPP affirms.

The primary objectives of IAPP

respect and cooperation among the world's peoples; and

--To encourage respectful and cooperative interreligious relations as essential to building a peaceful world.

Parliamentarians are the representatives of the peoples of the world, and, in that capacity, stand in a very special and important role in their nations and in the world. Given that we live in an interconnected world, and knowing that our problems are often global in nature,

Earlier this year, UPF launched the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, building on a foundation of work with parliamentarians over the past decade. The launch of the IAPP represents an effort to provide an informal network of parliamentarians who can work together collaboratively for the sake of peace and human development.

include the following:

- To promote good governance in all sectors of society;
- To develop high-quality educational programs for parliamentarians;
- To promote and encourage dialogue and cooperation among parliamentarians from nations around the world with the aim of promoting peace and human development;
- To protect, preserve and uphold the dignity and value of each human being, recognizing that all human beings are members of one global family;
- To strengthen the family as the central and most fundamental institution of human society;
- To work to build trust, mutual

we are increasingly aware that global solutions to our world's problems must be sought.

We believe that IAPP will be a significant contributor to peace and human development for all of humanity.

.....
Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D., is president of Universal Peace Federation International, which has NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. He is secretary-general of the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation, and also serves on the International Council of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and on the board of directors of the International Coalition for Religious Freedom.

21st century peacebuilding

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

International Leadership Conferences (ILC) have been taking place around the world throughout the past decade to promote peace and human development.

The ILCs, which are a project of the Universal Peace Federation, are built around one or more of its five purposes: interfaith peacebuilding, peace and security, marriage and family, youth and service, and the United Nations and non-governmental organization (NGO) relations.

Collaboration, dialogue, mutual respect

and interdependence are key words to many ILC participants: "The new agenda of the 21st century has only three letters: A-N-D," Dr. Walther Lichem, a retired Austrian ambassador, told an ILC held in Seoul in February 2016.

"Every issue must be dealt with in the context of its interrelatedness and interdependencies with other issues and agendas," he said.

The ILCs draw hundreds of international delegates from dozens of countries. The gatherings permit networking and capacity-building among leaders from all sectors, including current parliamentarians, government ministers, diplomats,

grass-roots activists and leading figures in religion, media, academia, and civil society.

A key goal of an ILC is to develop a new model or "best practices" for leadership and good governance: a model that is innovative, principled and effective in solving problems.

In recent months, ILCs have been held in Seoul; Tokyo; London; Lusaka, Zambia; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Asuncion, Paraguay; San Jose, Costa Rica; and Kathmandu, Nepal. These conferences have addressed critical problems such as climate change, extreme poverty, the rise of extremist ideologies, and the refugee crisis.

A highlight of the ILCs has been the

Peace Road 2016 project. Youth and adults in many nations have held public events in which they bicycled, walked, ran cross-country, rode horses or even climbed mountains to show support for the vision of an international peace highway, as envisioned by UPF founders Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Another highlight this year was the inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace. Almost a dozen chapters of IAPP already have been established in various regions; many more are planned.

Founder's Address: Serving the well-being of others, future generations

By Kwon Jin Moon

Distinguished parliamentarians and leaders from throughout South America, it is an honor to stand before you today. This is my first visit to Paraguay and I am delighted to be here to witness the beauty of this country and the goodness of its people....

I was in Korea for the world-level International Leadership Conference (ILC) that was convened in February of this year and which included a session in the National Assembly to launch the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace. Since then, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) has convened a series of ILCs around the world.

I am inspired to observe the enthusiastic response that is coming from every corner of the world. I know that my late father, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, must be very pleased. And I am sure my mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, is, as well.

My mother very much wanted to be with us today. She loves this country and both she and my father worked tirelessly over many years to develop the work of UPF in this region. Since she could not be with us today, she asked me to represent her and to deliver her message....

I will now read the Founder's Address of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon...

Your Excellencies, distinguished parliamentarians from throughout South America, honored participants in the International Leadership Conference of the Universal Peace Federation, ladies and gentlemen: I am pleased to address you today in Asuncion, Paraguay.

I believe it is very significant that we have gathered here for this special session of UPF's International Leadership Conference, and the launch, in this region, of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace. I am encouraged that parliamentarians have come together from not only Paraguay, but from many other nations of South America as well.

My late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and I have always taught that individuals in every sector of society — including government, civil society, religion, business, academia, etc. — have a responsibility to work to build a world of universal and lasting peace. This is especially true of parliamentarians. The parliament in any nation is

the house of the people, a place where the voice of the people may be heard and the public good may be advanced by democratically elected representatives, parliamentarians. Representative democracy is a noble tradition, with roots that date back many centuries, and is now the most widely practiced form of governance.

Although you have gathered here from nations around the world, you share a common appreciation and respect for serving as the representatives of the people who elected you. You are servants of the people, and, as such, are expected to serve the public good, guided by basic principles of good governance: accountability, transparency, collegiality, inclusivity, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

We all have a nature that derives from our common origin. That is why we are capable of practicing true love toward one another and toward all things in the world around us.

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.

Good governance also depends upon a well-educated and morally responsible citizenry. It is for this reason that, throughout history, religion has been an important factor in contributing to the moral and spiritual development of both the political leaders and the citizens. It is imperative that, within modern democratic systems, we do not lose sight of God, our Creator and Heavenly Parent, nor of the spiritual principles and laws that have been taught throughout the ages.

My husband and I have dedicated our lives exclusively to building a world of lasting peace. This has been our lifelong mission. We have always taught that peace is not merely an absence of violent conflict. Peace comes into being whenever relationships are characterized by harmony, balance and mutual respect.

Such relationships are created when we practice unselfishness, living for the sake of others. This is the essence of true love. True love is the essence of God, who created all things as our

Heavenly Parent.

We all have a nature that derives from our common origin. That is why we are capable of practicing true love toward one another and toward all things in the world around us. Our purpose and responsibility as the sons and daughters of God, our Heavenly Parent, is to become individuals of true love, with mind and body united; on this foundation we can build marriages and families of true love, as the foundation for the society and the nation; and in turn we should care for the planet and all the forms of life that make up our environment.

If we fulfill this responsibility, we can establish a world of peace. My husband and I have applied this ideal, and the principle of living for the sake of others, in every sector of society.

We have always honored individuals who applied these principles in their spheres of professional life, appointing them as Ambassadors for Peace. Many parliamentarians around the world have been appointed as Ambassadors for Peace, and they work closely with UPF and other affiliated organizations of our movement.

In addition, I recently inaugurated the Sunhak Peace Prize to honor individuals and organizations who have dedicated themselves to serving the well-being of others and future generations. The first Sunhak Peace Prize was presented in August 2015, and the second prize will be awarded in February 2017.

When I spoke at the United Nations in Vienna in May of last year, 2015, I called for a spiritual awakening. The member states of the United Nations should not merely follow their national interests. Each member state should seek to serve the whole purpose, the larger purpose, looking beyond national self-interest.

When we observe the world from God's point of view, we see the world from a larger perspective. No matter what our field of endeavor — priest, parliamentarian or professor — we should be committed to and guided by universal moral and spiritual principles. Whether we are the mayor of a small town, the pastor of a small church, or the president of a nation or the secretary-general of the U.N., this is our eternal responsibility. This is the responsibility of each parliamentarian gathered here.

In the year 2000, my husband and I spoke at the United Nations in New York, calling on the United Nations and the member states to consider an

innovative proposal, namely, that the United Nations build within its system an interfaith council, consisting of religious, spiritual and moral leaders who could advise, collaborate and deliberate with the representatives of the member states. Such a council could serve as the voice of universal values and principles.

The U.N. emerged in the World War II era, more than 70 years ago. Whereas, there are U.N. Headquarters Offices in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, there is no such office in Asia, even though we are living increasingly in an Asia-Pacific age. In many ways, the geopolitical, economic and social center of gravity of our world is shifting toward Asia.

With this in mind, UPF and other affiliated organizations of our movement are advocating for consideration of a fifth United Nations office to be established in Korea. I hope you will reflect on this proposal. I believe a fifth U.N. Office on the Korean Peninsula, perhaps in the DMZ, with support of both Koreas, would go a long way toward establishing peace on this peninsula and toward peace in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In closing, I want to emphasize the importance of the role of parliamentarians. You represent the people. You are entrusted by the people with a great responsibility. If parliamentarians of the world 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.

With this in mind I encourage you, on this day, to form the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, centered on the principle of living for the sake of others, and centered on God, our Heavenly Parent. You are the representatives of the 7 billion people of the world. If you join together in this way, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. Let us work together to build a world of lasting peace.

Thank you for allowing me to share these words with you today. May God bless each one of you, your family and your nation.

.....
Kwon Jin Moon is the fifth son of the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who co-founded the International Leadership Conference. He delivered Mrs. Moon's remarks at the International Leadership Conference in Asuncion, Paraguay, on Oct. 10, 2016.



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Pulling together for peace, prosperity in Africa

By Evelyn Manda

Let me on behalf of Pillars of Peace (Zambia) welcome you all ... to this beautiful land of Zambia....

I would like to thank the organizers of this conference for choosing Zambia to host this unique summit ... [and its theme], "Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations."

I am pleased to note that as you discuss peace, you have included the challenges resulting from poverty, broken families, lack

its causes. The youth who are the future resource in our nations are being used to fan violence because they are vulnerable and desperate, mostly because of poverty. I wish to state here that it is important for all of us to invest appropriately in the development of our youth....

We have seen some extremist tendencies crippling some of our sister nations in Africa. This should be a great source of concern for all of us, in whatever capacity, as it is a real threat to peaceful existence.

Allow me to remind each and every one of us in this forum that the family is the first school of life and existence. Education begins in the home, within the family

enhances the overall quality of life for everyone....

I gladly notice that one of the highlights of this seminar will be the inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, to serve as a platform for government and civil society to work together in promoting peace and prosperity in our nations.

This is a very important initiative. It is also important that we should engage our traditional leaders much more because they are the custodians of our rural communities. I also wish to appeal to all the organizations that are focusing on peace to unite and work together so that we can magnify the impact of our work. Maybe this is the time for us to think about having an umbrella organization for peace in our country. It is also important for us to ponder on the possibility of having a regional body on peace in Southern Africa.

As Pillars of Peace (Zambia), we shall work in close partnership with our government. We will continue to support peace initiatives that will lead to the achievement of peace. We will ensure to play our greater role of advocacy in ensuring that we remind our government to uphold the global pillars of peace norms that promote:

- A.) Good governance.
- B.) Reduced corruption.
- C.) Well-functioning government.
- D.) Equitable distribution of wealth.
- E.) Human development capital, and
- F.) Enhancement of people's sustainable livelihoods.

I challenge the members of Parliament, civil society, the corporate sector, faith-based organizations and traditional and religious leaders to get involved in this intervention. We should all walk the talk.

Allow me to commend our Republican president, His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, for putting peace at the center stage during the pre- and post-election period.... He provided the leadership that helped our country to stand firm and retain our country's glory of Zambia as "a peaceful nation."

Finally, I am most delighted to note that participants have been drawn from all over Africa As lawmakers who are a critical group of leaders in all nations, you have the mandate to speak for the people. Remember that God will hold all of us leaders accountable for the well-being of His beloved creation, mankind. God bless you all. Thank you.

.....
 Evelyn C. Manda is executive director of Pillars of Peace in Zambia. These excerpts are from her remarks to the Nov. 5-7 International Leadership Conference in Lusaka, Zambia.

Excerpts from 2016 International Leadership Conference

"I would like to make one important proposal for the establishment of permanent peace in Asia: It is to invite the fifth United Nations Secretariat to the Asian region ... "I have hopes that the fifth U.N. will be established at the DMZ, which divides the Korean Peninsula... I hope that it can change from being a wound of war to a testament of world peace." – The Honorable Bae Duk-kwang, member of Korea National Assembly, to International Leadership Conference, July 28-31, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

"The fact that strangers, even before having an orientation and getting to know each other, gather together in this hall to take on many challenges of the country and the world, is noble." – The Honorable Daishiro Yamagiwa, member of Parliament, Japan, to International Leadership Conference, July 28-31, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

"I fully support this great initiative that will harness unity of ideologies amongst world leaders and influential political leaders to form a united front toward world peace and coexistence. Where there is a political will — that will definitely pave a way for world peace." – The Honorable Iliesa Delana, assistant minister for youth and sports, Fiji, to International Leadership Conference, July 28-31, in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Evelyn Manda addresses the ILC in Lusaka, Zambia in November 2016.

of values among our communities, as well as various social problems facing the youth — especially as they comprise the larger part of our population....

It is also important to note that there can never be any meaningful economic, social and technological advancement among our people without peace.

As you may be aware, Zambia has always been regarded as a haven for peace, and this we continue to preach to the international community, region and within our own country.

This is why Pillars of Peace (Zambia) was formed: to be the vehicle that would ensure that Zambians are reminded about the importance of promoting, believing and sustaining peace in our nation....

Peace in some of our nations has been challenged by individuals and radical groups. At times, we all find it hard to control this trend, let alone understand

unit. Foundational mindset and character starts within the family, and positive family foundation brings prosperity, peace and happiness into communities. We need to further the talent that God has given us in a productive manner. Our future is molded by ourselves through leadership ideals.

We are happy about the concept of the Universal Peace Federation of "One Family, Under God." We sincerely believe that family is the building block of a nation and it is a very important component towards the development of our continent. Conversely, one of the critical challenges we face today is the crucial breakdown of the family unit resulting in a wide range of social problems.... However, despite these challenges, there are men and women the world over who still aspire to build strong, loving and lasting families. Therefore, when families are strengthened, a strong base is created for social capital to flourish. This, in turn,



The Washington Times Foundation

We salute the 2017 Sunhak Peace Prize
Laureates Dr. Gino Strada and Dr. Sakena Yacoobi.

These two humanitarians have relieved the suffering of millions of people in the fields of medicine and education. They are “heroes of today” who go beyond national boundaries to express love and service to humanity.

The annual Sunhak Peace Prize, established in February 2013 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to honor the peacemaking leadership of her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, is awarded to individuals and organizations that have made enduring contributions to the noble ideal of peace by living for the sake of others.

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The Washington Times Foundation is a 501(c) 3 private foundation that supports a variety of initiatives to resolve human conflict and strengthen peace through building bridges of understanding and cooperation between people, cultures, systems of governance and faith traditions.

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Confronting extremism with wisdom and humanity

By Dr. Afzal Ashraf

My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. The question that we have been asked to address is: What role can religious leaders play in confronting extremism?

The simple answer to that is that religious leaders should emphasize the commonality of humanity, tolerance and the importance of empathy and social justice. In particular, where extremists misuse scripture to justify their violent actions, religious leaders have a duty to highlight the errors of these interpretations.

Just about every religious leader in the world — including Pope Francis; the Dalai Lama; and here, in London, the Caliph of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, who is the only counterweight to the Caliph of Daesh — has done this to some degree. Despite their noble efforts, there has been little improvement. To understand why, we need to ask a number of questions:

--What is the relationship and difference between religion and politics?

--How do we get religious extremism?

--What role does religion play in extremist ideologies?

--What can religious leaders actually do?

Political systems have two essential components: who exercises power and the value framework within which that power is exercised. In most cases, it is religion or the religious heritage of the politicians that provides the value systems by which power is exercised, or at least justified. Western Liberal Democracy draws many of its legal principles and frameworks from Judeo-Christian values. So, the two are usually linked that way.

The difference between religion and politics is that religion aspires people to high principles. Any compromise in these can be seen as a compromise in faith. Politics, on the other hand, necessitates pragmatism, which, in turn, requires compromise. That is why in systems that are primarily political, the pragmatism required to work with others with different outlooks and values can often be achieved.

In systems that are led by religious leaders, decisions made for pragmatic reasons are difficult because they can be seen as a weakness of faith. Such systems often lead to extremist offshoots.

That is not the only way extremism arises in religion. Scholars who have

studied extremism have postulated that people develop extremist interpretations of religion when they experience social and political crises. I have confirmed this by looking at case studies that included the Dutch Reform Church's support of apartheid, the development

the current fashion in foreign policies aimed at enforced regime change, where the price of the change is paid for the lives of innocent citizens. We have a bizarre situation now where, in order to be liberated from the oppression of dictators, many times more innocents



The difference between religion and politics is that religion aspires people to high principles. Any compromise in these can be seen as a compromise in faith. Politics, on the other hand, necessitates pragmatism, which, in turn, requires compromise.

of the Hindutva ideology, and Islamism. In such circumstances, social and political grievances are interpreted as threats to the identity and values of believers, and religion is reinterpreted to confront those perceived as responsible for the threat.

In so doing, religious extremist ideologies primarily serve two purposes: they mobilize followers around their religious identity against the perceived threat, and they provide an ethical justification for violence and control over others.

So, what can religious leaders do to confront extremism? First, they must maintain a separation from power. They need to avoid having power or influencing who has power. But they should influence positively the debate on the values by which power is exercised. In particular, the values universal to all major religions of peace through the exercise of absolute justice, beneficence and altruistic love.

We are today being asked to offer policies that might be effective in countering extremism. Many policies are needed. Indeed, many already exist. But if these policies do not directly link to the religious principles I have mentioned, then they risk being ineffective.

For example, we must encourage governments to think more critically about

and encourage vigilante groups to fight crime, no matter how well meaning they may be. We know that eventually, these groups are likely to threaten the very peace and security they aim to protect. We only grant such power to police and other forces who can be controlled.

Why then do we encourage, arm and support groups in other countries? How many examples are there in recent times of such groups transitioning to peaceful governance? Not many. But there are many more examples of such groups becoming extremists. Indeed most of the prominent extremist groups have benefitted from either direct or indirect state support to develop their reigns of terror.

So while religious leaders should continue to [move toward] interfaith dialogue and encourage critical and accurate study of their scriptures, they should also focus on understanding that it is both local and global social and political crises that lead to extremism. They should advise and guide political leaders on how to work toward peace through universal justice, beneficence and altruistic love. That requires that the structures of international law and cooperation, imperfect as they may be, are upheld and strengthened, rather than being ignored and weakened.

.....
Afzal Ashraf, Ph.D., served as a senior officer in the Royal Air Force and is an expert on cybersecurity and international affairs relating to terrorism and radicalization. These excerpts are from remarks given at the Sept. 7-9 International Leadership Conference in London.

Excerpts from 2016 International Leadership Conference

“Nepal was selected as the venue for this interregional peace conference because this nation is in the final stages of peacefully concluding a 10-year insurgency... We have come together as a community of nations — a family of nations — to learn from each other and to share best practices... Together we must find and embrace universally shared values in order to pursue a path of social harmony, mutual prosperity and sustainable development.” -- Dr. Yong Chung-sik, regional chairman of Universal Peace Federation-Asia, to International Leadership Conference, July 28-31, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

“In civil society, different organizations must work together to help build up a new Nepal. The holy Bagmati River did not become dirty by itself. We made it dirty. We must clear it up. The foundation of a tree is its roots. We must find out the fundamental problem and correct it, beginning from the base, from the foundation.” -- The Honorable K. P. Sharma Oli, former prime minister of Nepal, to International Leadership Conference, July 28-31, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Climate change threatens island nations

**By the Honorable
Kessai Note**

I feel so fortunate today that I may join with my able colleagues from Oceania to elaborate more on the complex issues of climate change, sea-level rise, sustainable economic development, sustainable energy, clean energy, health and education, the high rate of unemployment, youth problems and human trafficking...

In my country, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, these challenges are compounded by our very limited natural resources, isolation, the economy of scale, the adequate training of our labor force, the lack of modern basic infrastructure, and the legacy of the United States' nuclear testing in our country during the late 1940s and 1950s. As a consequence of the nuclear-testing program, the Marshallese population has the highest rate of thyroid cancer in the world, and for many of our families, their homes have been rendered unsafe for resettlement for many years to come as a result of high concentrations of radioactive materials.

Of all the challenges that we face today, global warming, most particularly climate change and sea-level rise, bring the most destruction to our fragile environment and our traditional ways of life.

Scientific measurement devices have confirmed that the sea level in the Marshall Islands is rising at an alarming rate, and therefore our very existence as a people and our culture and heritage are



constantly under threat. In fact, we may be the first of many to be known as environmental refugees of the Pacific...

In order to find solutions to these problems, the government of the Marshall Islands on a national level, with the help of numerous civil society organizations, has developed a number of strategic plans that are currently being implemented to either minimize the impact of, or to eradicate, these problems completely. In this endeavor, we have received technical, financial and professional support from numerous regional and international organizations, as well as our traditional development partners.

On a regional level, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, is an active member of the Pacific Island Forum and its various

agencies. As you may know, the Forum is comprised of all the independent and some non-independent countries in the Pacific. The Forum, through its specialized agencies, has created various plans and guidelines to deal with these problems.

On the international level, of course, like other countries that are represented here today, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has been actively involved in numerous agencies of the United Nations that are directly dealing with the challenges and issues that affect our lives today. We have also participated in and supported various international and regional nongovernmental organizations that have been established to address these challenges of our time.

One of the most important accomplishments of all of these deliberations is the so-called Paris Agreement on Climate Warming, previously known as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Paris Agreement encompasses a series of steps and opportunities for action on sustainable development and climate change, as well as socioeconomic issues. For our situation, the most important outcome on all this is the creation of funding sources for our small island countries.... Such funds empower and enable us to begin to address our needs for conservation, restoration and rebuilding our communities...

These are some of the steps that have been taken on national, regional and international levels in our common goal to address the issues and challenges that we face on our road to peace.

I want to close by reminding my parliamentary colleagues and lawmakers here today of our most important responsibility: to ensure that our national governments do comply with and implement the various regional and international protocols and agreements that have been established to save our lives and our planet. With that, I thank you so much.

.....
The Honorable Kessai Note served as president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands from 2000 to 2008. These excerpts are taken from his address to the July 28-31 International Leadership Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Peace can come as 'ancient conflicts' are resolved



By the Honorable Paulo Pisco

Today we are facing a big threat caused by fanaticism and radicalism that should mobilize all the efforts of civil society, religious movements, international institutions, governments and political parties to stop it. But we need to go deeper into the causes of these threats and work very hard to put an end to political repression, while helping to create free societies with decent jobs... If we fail

to do this, disruption will keep on causing instability, suffering, poverty, forced migration, refugees and xenophobia...

The expansion of Daesh, particularly, is at the origin of much of the instability provoked in countries around Syria and Iraq, but also in the European Union, causing divisions, tensions and selfishness while people that really need help and solidarity are still waiting for a solution for their lives.

Political leaders have the responsibility to place justice, solidarity, human dignity and human rights as values to guide their political actions....Therefore, political decisions all over the world should be courageous, honest and always putting human dignity as a priority for a much better and tolerant world.

Of course, United Nations has a crucial role to play... On the other hand, we all must appeal to a number of countries to abandon their cynicism in geopolitics, mainly those who block solutions that could lead to situations of peace and world stability. It's the case of

what happens in Syria or in Palestine, for instance.

The expansion of terrorism is causing huge regional instability ... we are facing the biggest refugee crisis since World War II, with more than 65 million displaced people.

European Union should ... make all efforts to persuade the countries now reluctant to accept their part of responsibility, sharing in a fair and balanced way the distribution of refugees... It is not acceptable that thousands and thousands are still living in miserable camps, like in Calais, facing local hostility. It is not acceptable that more than 10,000 unaccompanied children have simply disappeared after arriving in Europe, feeding human trafficking or even to be used by terrorists....

Meanwhile, the fences that appeared in Europe are a shame for the world and should not exist. They are a symbol of human hate, no matter if they are built in European borders, in American borders, in Israel, or in any other parts

of the world. I believe that the world will never be in peace while some of the most ancient conflicts are not solved, like in Israel and Palestine.

The efforts to create two nations living side by side, in peace and security, in respect of each other's sovereignty, should really be a priority for a better world.

I believe the aim of a global peace should be deeply rooted in political decisions, actions and speeches of all governments and regional and global institutions.... If it happens, it would also be much easier to mobilize citizens for tolerance, respect for human rights, and for a sustainable peace, which are conditions to a real economic and social well-being, security and development for everybody in the world.

.....
The Honorable Paulo Pisco is a member of the Assembly of the Republic (Portugal). These excerpts are from his address to the Sept. 7-9 International Leadership Conference in London.

Surgeon, educator share 2017 Sunhak Peace Prize

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

Two humanitarians, each of whom work on a global level to relieve suffering of displaced persons and refugees in conflict zones, have been named the laureates of the 2017 Sunhak Peace Prize and will split a \$1 million cash award.

Dr. Gino Strada of Italy, founder of Emergency, a medical crisis-relief organization, was selected for his 25 years of service to refugees in life-threatening circumstances in Asia, the Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and conflict zones in Africa.

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, an educator known as “the mother of Afghan education,” was also selected for establishing the Afghan Institute of Learning and providing education and vocational training to refugees for 21 years.

Both of the 2017 Sunhak laureates have played a role in easing suffering in the lives of millions of people.

Dr. Hong Ik-sik, chairman of the Sunhak



Peace Prize Committee, said Dr. Strada and Dr. Yacoobi represent the “heroes of today” who go beyond national borders to express love and service to humanity.

The theme of the 2017 Sunhak Peace Prize is the current “refugee crisis,” he said at the International Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 29.

“While diaspora has been one of our oldest recurring adaptive measures to crises occurring throughout the history of civilizations, now more than ever, this problem should be handled as one of the most important issues of our era,” Dr. Hong said.

The Sunhak Peace Prize was established in February 2013 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to honor — and continue — the active



commitment to peace that characterized the life of her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. The Sunhak Peace Prize will be presented annually in recognition of “those who have dedicated their lives in service to humanity and the noble ideal of peace.”

The first Sunhak Peace Prize was awarded in 2015 to Kiribati President Anote Tong and Indian aquaculture scientist Dr. M. Vijay Gupta, in honor of the prize’s first theme that “the ocean is essential to future peace.”

The hundreds of candidates for the second Sunhak Peace Prize were nominated for their efforts to serve the world’s massive, displaced-persons population — the largest

seen since World War II, Dr. Hong noted.

Dr. Strada, a war surgeon who has worked with the International Red Cross, established Emergency as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in 1994. It now operates more than 60 emergency medical and surgical facilities in 17 nations. It is estimated his organization has saved some 8 million lives, including many people in life-threatening situations.

Dr. Strada sees “the right to be cured” as a basic and inalienable right, and seeks to see high-quality medical treatment offered free of charge to the world’s poorest people. He has received agreements from at least 11 governments in Africa committing them to that goal.

Dr. Yacoobi is known for her conviction that education is the only sustainable solution for the future of refugees — and her Afghan Institute of Learning, established as a NGO in 1995, has provided education and training to some 13 million refugees.

She is particularly committed to the education of girls and women. This has meant operating underground schools in areas dominated by the Taliban in order to educate some 3,000 girls.



An international prize for peace, now and in the future

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

The Sunhak Peace Prize was established in February 2013 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to honor — and continue — the peacemaking leadership of her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, who passed in September 2012.

Together, the couple tirelessly promoted the vision of “One Family, Under God” and a world in which people live together as a global family, transcending differences of race, religion, nationality and culture.

The annual Sunhak Peace Prize, which is drawn from both of their names, carries a \$1 million prize and is awarded to individuals and organizations who have made enduring contributions to the noble ideal of peace by living for the sake of others.

Under the motto, “Making the World Better for Future Generations,” the prize seeks to encourage significant and enduring efforts to resolve human suffering, poverty, conflict and environmental threats.

Nominees for the prize will have contributed significantly to one or more tenets of peace in three categories. These include:

--Respect for human development, including poverty relief, disease eradication, and education and welfare;

--Resolution of conflict, including human relationships, religious harmony, and unification of North and South Korea;

--Ecological conservation, including climate change, threats to biodiversity, and energy depletion.

The theme for the first Sunhak Peace Prize was that “the ocean is essential to the future peace of humanity.”

The first two Sunhak Peace Prize laureates, announced in June 2015, were Kiribati President Anote Tong, who has raised international awareness of how

island nations, such as Kiribati, are affected by rising sea levels, and Dr. M. Vijay Gupta, who has developed fish-farming techniques for rural poor. The laureates split the \$1 million prize and were honored in a ceremony in Seoul, South Korea, in August 2015.

The 14-member Sunhak Peace Prize Committee and its chairman, Dr. Hong Ik-sik, a former chancellor of Korea University, review the more than 1,000 nominees and select the laureates. The committee also coordinates follow-up programs with the laureates that are aimed at continuing their work to promote peace and human development.




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Investing in the ‘blue revolution’



By Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta

Buddha once said that the greatest disease of all mankind is “hunger.” Today, poverty and hunger are the most devastating problems facing the developing world. Over 800 million [people] or one in nine of the global population go to bed hungry every day. All most all of them, or 13.5 percent of the population, are in developing countries....

If we look at the situation with regard to children, some 250 million children are at risk of vitamin A deficiency, and an equal number from deficiency of minerals, such as iron, zinc, calcium, etc. Nearly 25,000 children under the age of 5 die every day, one third of them due to malnutrition. These statistics are difficult to digest, but are true....

In 2000, the world’s leaders set a target to halve the [proportion of people who suffer from] hunger and malnutrition by 2015, this year, through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While countries have made some progress, hunger and malnutrition still remain major problems for most of the developing countries....

If we are not able to meet the projected demand for food, the consequences will be increased poverty and malnutrition in developing countries, leading to political unrest.... I strongly believe that sustainable peace, whether it is within the family, among communities, religions, or across political borders, can be achieved only when issues of poverty and hunger are addressed.

Fish, food security and peace

In this context, let me humbly and briefly mention my efforts in the last five decades, looking at how fish farming or aquaculture — through making science relevant to the needs of the farming community in developing countries, including war-torn countries, such as Laos, and least developed countries, such as Bangladesh — can bring changes to the lives

and livelihoods of the rural poor by providing adequate food and nutrition security....

When we think of “fish,” perhaps we think of oceans, reefs, rivers and restaurants, but we do not think of malnutrition, high infant mortality rates... It is a well-known fact that fish are a rich source of protein, essential fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, and a major source of animal protein to people in developing countries. Fish provides over 4.5 billion of the global population with at least 15 percent of their animal protein intake. From an economic standpoint, fish is by far the most internationally traded commodity, with the global trade in fish estimated to be around \$160 billion per annum... In addition, fish farming is environmentally friendly compared to the production of other animal proteins, such as beef and pork ... Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon has rightly identified the potential of oceans and other aquatic systems as a major source for contributing to food security and peace....

Over 80 percent of food globally is produced by small-scale farmers ... so ensuring the survival and livelihoods of small-scale farmers is of utmost importance. As the Chinese proverb says: “give a man a fish, he eats for a day, while teach a man how to farm fish, he eats every day.”



Aquaculture and women

My work over the years has focused on reaching the unreached with aquaculture technologies and capacity-building of resource-poor, small-scale farmers for sustainable development, in different parts of the world.... This meant going to farmers and understanding the social, cultural and economic [conditions in which they live and work], along with the natural resources they are endowed with, and developing simple, low-cost, low-risk technologies that could be adopted and sustained by them.

This approach — which began in the



1970s in India, followed by other Asian countries and subsequently adopted by African countries — has resulted in a multifold increase in fish production and laid the foundation for what we call today a “blue revolution.”

For example, aquaculture production, which was about 1.3 million tons in the 1970s in India, has increased to over 4.2 million tons today. Likewise, aquaculture production in Bangladesh has increased from around 75,000 tons in the 1980s to over a million tons today. This innova-

household income, improved nutrition [in their family] and better education of the children. The end result was empowerment of women within the family and in society.

Further, studies have shown that if women farmers have the same access to resources as men have, agricultural output in developing countries would increase by 2.5 percent to 4.0 percent. Another study has shown that equalizing the status of women with men in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa can reduce malnourishment among 13.4 million and 1.3 million children, respectively.

Our studies have shown that when a woman becomes an income-earning member of the family, there is more security and happiness in the family and the children are better educated. These studies have proved the importance of women’s innate capacities as farmers, innovators and household managers in rural communities....

In closing, I would like to say that the “blue revolution” is in its early stages; however, much more needs to be done if it is to contribute to food and nutritional security, and improve the livelihoods of millions of rural poor. For this to happen, countries need appropriate strategies and development plans for and to allocate adequate resources to it.

Let us all join our hands in addressing the issues of poverty, hunger and malnutrition to make the world a peaceful one for every one to live happily.

.....
These excerpts are from remarks given by Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta, a fisheries scientist in India, to the World Summit 2015 in Seoul, Korea, provided courtesy of Universal Peace Federation International. Dr. Gupta received the Sunhak Peace Prize medal and a cash prize of \$500,000 for his pioneer work in aquaculture in rural communities.

tion has not only resulted in increased production of fish, but has also improved the livelihoods of millions of rural households....

Our work has involved [enabling the] rural women to contribute to household income and food security through aquaculture. It was not an easy task. It took much effort to motivate and convince them [to learn aquaculture], because in some cases, cultural or religious stigmas came into play. But once [they learned and saw the benefits of] aquaculture for their family, there was no going back.

This resulted in an increase in their

Facing down the rising sea levels



By President Anote Tong

It is indeed an honor to address this auspicious occasion on behalf of the government and people of Kiribati, on whose behalf I convey their warm greetings through our Kiribati traditional blessing of peace and security: Kam Na Bane Ni Mauri!

I wish to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to you, Rev. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for your vision that has brought us together today, a vision that embraces the whole of humankind, a vision that promotes and supports global peace. For indeed, peace and security are what we all aspire to for our people, for our children, for our grandchildren and their children. I truly believe that the prestigious Sunhak Peace Prize, along with this World Summit on peace, will elevate global thinking, and it is my very dear hope, global action on a challenge that poses the greatest danger to life as we know it now....

The journey that I have taken to advocate on behalf of my people against the biggest security threat facing not only my people, but also the world as a whole, has not been without its challenges....

Perils from tides, winds

My people, living on low-lying atoll islands no higher than 3 meters above sea level, face a very uncertain future, with the very real possibility of loss of life as they know it now, the very real possibility of loss of their identity as a people and as a culture within this century.

We recently concluded a session in our Parliament and, during that time, the bulk of requests [we received] from communities across the nation [asked] what we, as a government, can do to compensate for the loss of food crops, loss of land, loss of drinking water.

We have been experiencing increasingly high tides, [which are] occurring in greater frequency and that have been accompanied with strong winds. Any high tide coupled with strong winds wreaks havoc to our islands, our homes, our villages. Food crops have been destroyed and the fresh water lens (our communities' source of drinking water) is contaminated by the intruding sea water.

With the cost estimates of damages and reconstruction running into millions of dollars, as a government, we are

constantly being swamped with requests for assistance from our communities and our people....

The question that concerns us most deeply is whether we will ever be able to emerge ahead of these escalating challenges or remain forever in the rebuilding and reactionary phase, until our limited resources are fully exhausted and our islands no longer able to sustain and support life as we know it.

It has been 12 years [since my early campaigns for climate change], and in these last few years, I truly believe that we, as a global community, have reached some level of consensus on it... At this



juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership and hard work of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, whose efforts have placed climate change at the top of the global agenda. It is my firm belief that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's visit to Kiribati — having experienced first-hand the reality on the ground, the challenges that my people have faced against [the rising] sea level, against the impacts of climate change — has motivated him to support my cause for my people and all those on the frontline of climate change.

His Holiness Pope Francis and President Barack Obama, among other world leaders, have joined the ever-increasing voices advocating against climate change.... What is now required is action — action that will guarantee that the future of our global community and our planet Earth will be secured; action that guarantees that no one will be left behind and, most importantly, urgent action to address the security and existential challenges from climate change for the most vulnerable peoples in frontline states.... Indeed, what are the options available for vulnerable countries like Tuvalu, the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Kiribati?

Floating islands?

In Kiribati, we have adopted a strategy that would ensure that the country or parts of it remain above sea level in whatever form into the future. Concepts such as floating islands may no longer be mere concepts, but very real technical solutions to this global dilemma. Also, there is the possibility of raising our islands from their current height to heights above the predicted sea-level rises — again, why not? I have had discussions with the government of Korea, which has indicated its willingness to pilot options, to assess the potential technological solutions for raising our islands....

food source, not only for my people but also for the world as a whole.

For us, PIPA is an investment in the future. It is our contribution to humanity and the conservation and preservation of marine life—not only for us, but also for the global community and for generations to come. More importantly, it signals our serious commitment to the world as a whole that sacrifices are necessary and can indeed be made to ensure the continued health of our oceans for the common good. That is the core of what I have been advocating: if there is to be any real and tangible impacts on the ground, sacrifices are key....

On the issue of relocation, I want to place on record my people's and my own deep gratitude to the government and the people of Fiji for their most compassionate offer to accommodate our people if, and when, the need arises.... We have no immediate plans to migrate en masse; however, I applaud Fiji for rising to the moral challenge, for it is these selfless acts of goodness that the world today needs.

As of January 1st, this year, 2015, Kiribati closed off approximately 11 percent of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from all forms of commercial fishing activities. The area closed is around 400,000 square kilometers out of the more than 8 million square kilometers of ocean that makes up the whole of Kiribati.

The ultimate closure of the Phoenix Island Protected Area, or PIPA, as it is more commonly known, was not without its challenges, particularly for a nation that relies heavily on the revenues [it receives] from fishing access to its oceans. It was an initiative that initially did not earn me much popularity domestically, and to this day, [it] continues to be a subject of internal debate. However, it was one that I personally considered critical for the conservation of a major

You may also have heard that I have called for a moratorium on new coal mines and the extension of existing coal mines. Science, as confirmed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, dictates that for the world to avoid catastrophic climate change, we must leave the vast bulk of carbon reserves in the ground. Very simply, the world needs to burn less coal each year....

Indeed, as responsible global citizens of this planet that we share as a home, it is our moral obligation to ensure its preservation. For the sake of humanity, let us all move forward together.

With these few words, allow me to conclude by sharing with you all our traditional Kiribati blessings of Te Mauri, Te Raoi, ao Te Tabomoa. May health, peace and prosperity be with us all. Thank you.

.....
These excerpts are from remarks given by Kiribati President Anote Tong to the World Summit 2015 in Seoul, Korea, provided courtesy of Universal Peace Federation International. Dr. Tong received the Sunhak Peace Prize medal and a cash prize of \$500,000 for his leadership in raising awareness about rising sea levels and climate change.

'Peace is universal. Peace is the only way'

**By the Honorable
Bhubaneswar Kalita**

I thank the organizers for inviting me to be with you to share some of my views, and to interact with you for one of the most important issues of this world today — “the peace.”

First, as I am standing here before you, the thought that comes in my mind [is] the thought of Lord Buddha. Lord Buddha, who conquered the world by the message of peace. Peace is universal. Peace is the only way. Peace is the only solution, which we have to take forward. I am really grateful to be invited here at this conference of peace, among the members of parliament of the Asia-Pacific Region.

While I am talking about Buddha, I remember and it has come to my mind about another great son of the world, Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi, by his learning, by his teaching of religion, culture and civilization, took forward the message of peace and nonviolence.

Even today, if you see any conflict or if you see conflict-resolution or peaceful negotiation, nonviolence is the only way by which we solved many of the problems....

In my country, in India, there are

many agents of violence, terrorist forces... What we have to see in India is that [it is] only by peaceful negotiation that we have solved many of such problems....

Today, talking about peace, the greatest threat against peace is terrorism. Terrorism is almost all over the world today. So the message of peace and initiatives of peace, particularly initiatives

of Parliamentarians for Peace, have great significance....

Friends, we have in our own country immigrants of countries around the world.... They reside peacefully; they reside for the prosperity of the resident country. People's initiatives for peace play the greatest role. I really thank Universal Peace Federation International for taking this objective forward.

If I give an example in my own state, in Assam, India, there are Nepali residents. We have members of Parliament from Nepali origin. We have legislators from Nepali origin. They all live peacefully. They all believe in the message that the only existence is the peaceful existence.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am here to be one with you in the initiatives of peace. I thank once again the organizers for inviting me to the conference of Parliamentarians for Peace.

.....
The Honorable Bhubaneswar Kalita is a member of Parliament in India. These excerpts are from his remarks at the July 28-31, 2016 International Leadership Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Birth of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace

**By THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT**

Since its inception in 2005, the Universal Peace Federation has worked closely with parliamentarians around the world in pursuit of lasting peace based on universal principles.

On Feb. 15, 2016, some 150 parliamentarians, representing more than 40 nations, signed a resolution to form the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP). This event took place in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea at an International Leadership Conference.

The founders of the Universal Peace Federation, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, launched the global “Parliamentarians for Peace” initiative in 2001, based on the successful Ambassadors for Peace program.

The IAPP is intended to provide local, regional and international forums for parliamentarians to bring their experience and wisdom to bear in the search for solutions to our world's problems.

Since the inauguration of IAPP in Seoul in February, regional chapters of IAPP have

been launched in the Asian-Pacific, East African, West African, European, Central American and South American regions. A North American IAPP chapter will be created at the November 2016 International Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Smaller IAPP chapters are being formed within the regions.

As we know, our world faces a wide range of problems, including territorial disputes, religious and racial conflict, environmental degradation, climate change, violent extremism, poverty, hunger, nuclear proliferation and corruption. Each of these is a serious threat to human development and to the realization of peace in our world.

The division of the Korean Peninsula cannot be seen as a domestic issue; it is an urgent issue that requires the interest and cooperation of Asia and the entire world. It is time for humanity to embrace universally shared values. Let us work together, going beyond differences of ideology, race, nationality and religion. Let us show the example and pursue the path of mutual cooperation and mutual prosperity, building a world of lasting and sustainable peace that can be bequeathed to future generations.

Therefore, we, the more than 150 parliamentarians, representing more than 40 nations, who are participating in the 2016 International Leadership Conference on “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations,” convened in Seoul, Korea, keenly feel the necessity to form a world-level parliamentary association through which we can work together for peace and human development.

Gathered at the Korean National Assembly, we hereby propose and resolve to establish the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.

Even now, 60 years after the Korean War, it remains impossible to communicate or freely travel between the two nations. It is time for the international community to wholeheartedly contribute to the realization of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The co-chairmen of IAPP are former Indiana Rep. Dan Burton, a Republican, and former Philippines Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia.

These programs are bringing together parliamentarians from around the world, forming an international network of men and women who are committed to solving the critical challenges of our time and realizing a world of lasting peace.

The following text is from the Feb. 16, 2016, resolution forming the IAPP:

As we gather in Seoul, we are especially mindful that the Korean Peninsula remains divided. North Korea continues to develop its nuclear weapons program, raising serious concerns all over the world that military tensions are rising throughout Northeast Asia. Even now, 60 years after the Korean War, it remains impossible to communicate or freely travel between the two nations. It is time for the international community to wholeheartedly contribute to the realization of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Peace begins by seeing ‘humanity as ourselves’

**By the Honorable
Andrew Solomon Napuat**

Through this conference, we are embarking on an important road map to achieve peace in the world. Peace, however, can be defined in various ways according to different contexts, cultures and traditions....

I come from a relatively peaceful part of the world. This year, my country was designated the fourth happiest nation on planet Earth. A few years ago, for two consecutive years, we were designated the happiest nation. You may ask, “Why is that? Are there no conflicts or disputes in Vanuatu?”

Let me give you some examples of the difficulties we are facing in our country. We have a very unstable political system in Vanuatu. The term of a government in Vanuatu is four years; however, it is rare for a government to last that long. We change government nearly every year. Sometimes, we have four to five prime ministers in a period of four years. That is the challenge we face: unstable government.

To make it even worse, last year we had 14 members of Parliament, some of whom were former prime ministers and some leaders of political parties, sentenced by the Supreme Court. They are currently serving a period in jail. Those are the serious issues we are facing.

Yet, I can testify to you today that we have managed those issues very peacefully. We have never taken matters to

the streets in protest or violence. We have never fought against other political parties. Even in Parliament, we have disagreements, but as we walk outside, we can still shake hands and greet each other as fellow human beings.

Fifty years ago, Vanuatu was colonized by the British and French. They jointly governed the country from 1906 until 1980. They were able to work together and share the same country. We

be founded based on faith in God and on the observance of traditional of Melanesian values. We are very strong in upholding traditional Melanesian values. Regardless of how we work to achieve peace, values and principles are of great importance. If we disregard our values, we will end up doing things that are detrimental for our people and for the whole human family.

On my first day in Nepal, I had the

constructing a monument or a building or a highway and calling it a monument to peace, then I believe most of our countries would already have done that. However, we cannot buy peace with money. We cannot achieve peace by constructing a building.

As we look to our left and right in this meeting today, we see human beings. Human beings are the most valuable creations on planet Earth. We have leaders from around the world gathered together here today and peace begins with each one of us. It starts with you and it starts with me. Peace begins when we change our way of seeing humanity. We must see humanity as ourselves. As Rev. Moon said, we “must live for others.” I believe if we go from this conference and begin to live by the values and principles of peace, this world will be a far better place.

Let me conclude by sharing with you a scripture. It is from the Bible because Vanuatu is a Christian nation. I am respectfully looking forward to hearing from other faith traditions as well. The passage goes: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” We all have a God to whom we direct our worship. But friends, if we become peacemakers, we will be called children of that God.

.....
The Honorable Andrew Solomon Napuat is a member of Parliament in the Republic of Vanuatu. These excerpts are from his remarks to the July 28-31 International Leadership Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal.



had two separate administrations governing the nation, but they were able to work together harmoniously ... and greet each other and talk freely each day.

When Vanuatu achieved independence in 1980, the Preamble of its Constitution stated that Vanuatu would

have had a chance to visit a palace which is now a museum. I came back to the hotel and thought, “It was a palace, but now it is no longer a palace — because the people decided to have a different political system.”

If peace could be achieved by simply

Excerpts from 2016 International Leadership Conference

“A lot of [modern] development has resulted in rapid climate change and has had a serious impact on Himalayan glaciers. In December 2009, while I held the position of prime minister of Nepal, we held a cabinet meeting in Kala Phatar (Black Stone) at the base camp of Mount Everest, to send a message about the negative impact of climate change.

High mountain glaciers are disappearing and there is danger of devastation. We must not repeat the errors committed earlier. We need to work together with the developed countries to save our environment.”

-- The Honorable Madhav Kumar, former prime minister of Nepal, to the International Leadership Conference, July 28-31, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

“What role will the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) play in creating world peace?”

First, this association must be politically neutral. It needs to embrace lawmakers from all parties, East and West, North and South.

Second, it should emphasize dialogue as an essential first step to resolving conflicts and building trust.

Third, it must respect all religious and faith traditions.

Fourthly, and most importantly, it needs to highlight the importance of the family as the cornerstone of peace, prosperity and patriotism.”

-- The Honorable Ek Nath Dhakal, Nepal minister of peace and reconstruction, to the International Leadership Conference, July 28-31, in Kathmandu, Nepal.



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