

Global Peace Convention 2021 Moral and Innovative Leadership in Peacebuilding for Our Changing World



A signature bi-annual assembly of the Global Peace Foundation, the 2021 convention was for the first time ever entirely virtual, greatly expanding its scope and worldwide participation.



Dr. Hyun Jin Preston Moon, keynote speaker for the International Forum on One Korea Plenary and Global Peace Convention Plenary (left) Dr. Junsook Moon, keynote speaker of the Global Peace Women Plenary (right).

By Tamami Jeon

Thousands of participants from over 100 countries around the globe joined over 40 sessions addressing critical aspects of peacebuilding, freedom of religion and conscience, peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, women’s leadership, strengthening families, transforming education, youth empowerment, and service and volunteerism to promote peace and development .

The Global Peace Convention 2021 (GPC2021) convened from August 6-15 under the theme “Moral and Innovative Leadership in Peacebuilding for Our Changing World” and featured plenaries, forums, roundtable discussions, a virtual exhibition hall, formal and informal networking sessions and interactive messaging boards.

With the tremendous shifts due to the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing conflicts driven by political and ideological polarization, the world is in need of a vision that can hold together a diverse, global human family. Starting from the overarching vision of “One Family Under God,” speakers and participants worked to develop “moral and innovative leadership” approaches from which to transform humanity’s greatest threats and challenges into opportunities to build a better future for all people.

Along with the many topical sessions, the Convention featured three main plenaries highlighting, respectively, coordinated approaches to peaceful unifica-

“A reunified Korea with a clear national vision based upon the Korean Dream will undoubtedly play a leading role in the twenty-first century.” —GPF Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Moon

tion of the Korean peninsula (August 12), women’s role as peacebuilders (August 13), and moral and innovative leadership (August 15). These highlighted much of the Global Peace work around the world even in these most challenging times.

Building a Free and Unified Korea: One Korea Plenary

One of the key focus areas of the Global Peace Foundation is building consensus on unification and reconciliation between North and South Korea, and defining the character of a new unified Korean nation. Highlighted as a model from which to both learn and apply critical lessons in peacebuilding, the work towards a free and united Korea has engaged leading scholars, human rights experts, peace advocates and a growing citizens’ movement to imagine a new nation that can become a catalyst for peace in the region and the world.

In the GPC 2021’s Korea plenary addressing the theme “Building a Free and Unified Korea as a Catalyst for Regional and Global Transformation,” experts from the Republic of Korea, the United States, Japan, Russia, Mongolia, India, China, the United Kingdom, and more evaluated the complexities of working towards a peaceful Korean unification. Even beyond official diplomatic efforts, the session explored viable options to address North Korean security threats, prospects for regional economic integration, and ways to draw attention to the many human rights and humanitarian issues affecting the Korean people.

Addressing that plenary on August 12, Global Peace Foundation Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Preston Moon said a “reunified Korea with a clear national vision based upon the Korean Dream will undoubtedly play a leading role in the twenty-first century. Not only will it help ensure geopolitical stability in the region, leading to global peace and prosperity; it will show the rest of the world that even the most extreme ideological and political divisions can be resolved with a unifying vision.”

“If we successfully seize on this opportunity, the world will be safer,” Dr. William J. Parker III, the former CEO and President of the EastWest Institute, told the forum. “The Peninsula will be both safer and more prosperous. And other danger-

Korean Dream Framework

Building a Free and Unified Korea as a Catalyst for Regional and Global Transformation

			
Dr. Hyun-jin Moon Founder and Chairman, Global Peace Foundation	Hon. Il-yoon Kim Chairman, Parliamentarians’ Society of the Republic of Korea; Former Five-Term National Assembly Member	Mr. Yong-in Kim Chairman, Korean National Police Veterans Association	Dr. Edwin Feulner Founder and Former President, Heritage Foundation
			
Hon. Jong-kul Lee President, Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation; Former 5-Term Member, National Assembly of Korea	Hon. Yong-ho Thae Member, National Assembly of Korea; Former Deputy Ambassador of North Korea to the United Kingdom	Hon. Young Kim Member of U.S. House of Representatives; Member of House Committee of Foreign Affairs	Mr. James Flynn International President, Global Peace Foundation
			
Dr. Jai-poong Ryu Founder and President, One Korea Foundation	Dr. William Parker Founder and CEO of Efficient Ships LLC, Former President and CEO, East West Institute; Former President and CEO, National Defense University Foundation	Dr. Huiyao Wang Founder and President, Center for China and Globalization	Mr. In-teck Seo Co-Chair, Action for Korea United
			
Mr. Richard Lee Moderator; President, Alliance for Korean United USA			

One Korea Plenary speakers

“As we face these emerging challenges, we have had to wrestle with how to find meaning in the sacrifices and turmoil around us. We have had to transform crisis into opportunity and turn despair into hope.”

—Global Peace Women Chairwoman Dr. Junsook Moon



ous scenarios around the globe will witness the peaceful resolution to an otherwise disastrous outcome.”

Women’s Role as Peacebuilders: Global Peace Women Plenary

International women leaders addressed global participants in the Global Peace Women Plenary focused on the theme “Service-minded Women Advancing Peace in the Home and World During Unprecedented Times.” In the last two years, lockdowns, shutdowns, school closures and the challenge of working and schooling at home has acted to highlight - more than ever - the unique role women have always played in the home, community, and world.

H.E. Dr. Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo, Founder of I-Care Women & Youth Initiative in Nigeria and former Second Lady of Nigeria, observed, “peaceful coexistence in the society and development cannot be achieved unless service-minded women in leadership take the center stage and lead the campaign.”

Global Peace Women Chairwoman and GPF Co-Founder Dr. Junsook Moon delivered the keynote address of the Women’s Plenary. Dr. Moon encouraged

participants to not lose sight of the bigger picture in the midst of the ongoing pandemic:

“As we face these emerging challenges, we have had to wrestle with how to find meaning in the sacrifices and turmoil around us. We have had to transform crisis into opportunity and turn despair into hope. The question we must ask ourselves is, “How can we, as women, as leaders, contribute to opening a path to a brighter future?”

Hosted by Mrs. Rachel Murray, the director of music at Lighthouse Church in Maryland, the plenary brought together members of Global Peace Women’s International Advisory Council: Hon. Lilian Samaniego from Paraguay, Dr. Nona Ricafort from the Philippines, Dr. Eva Latham from the Netherlands, and Dr. Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo from Nigeria, all active peacebuilders in their respective nations called on women leaders to continue pursuing opportunities presented in the current time of challenge.

Dr. Junsook Moon urged, “I invite you to find ways through which we can reach for deeper reserves of gratitude, service, and unconditional love in our daily

“The pandemic has shown this world is increasingly interconnected and interdependent. We must see each other, more and more, and accordingly as GPF has always manifested, as a great family under God.”

—Marco Vinicio Cerezo, Former President of Guatemala

lives. Global Peace Women strives to develop education, projects and initiatives that support women so we can nourish ourselves, our families, communities and the world with these gifts.”

Peacebuilding and Our Changing World: Global Peace Convention Plenary

The 2021 Convention concluding Main Plenary on August 15 featured diverse speakers and interactive presentations highlighting many of the priorities addressed during the convention, including innovations in education, international religious freedom, empowerment of youth and women and innovative approaches to peacebuilding.

Former President of Guatemala and former Secretary-General of the Central American Integration System H.E. Marco Vinicio Cerezo in his special remarks commented on the significance of the message of the Convention and the work of GPF through this unprecedented time in history. “The pandemic has shown this world is increasingly interconnected and interdependent,” he noted, “We must see each other, more and more, and accordingly as GPF has always manifested, as a great family under God.”

Bishop Onuoha Sunday, founder and President of Vision Africa, encouraged a multi-sector approach to raise the next generation of peacebuilders. “Peacebuilding is the business of everybody,” he said. “In our homes, we are peacebuilders, in our institutions of learning, we are peacebuilders, those in the media world are peacebuilders.

“The key thing is that we should do everything possible to begin to introduce in our educational institutions the curriculum of peacebuilding [...] and inside each person’s heart to be a person seeking peace.”

GPF Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Preston Moon delivered the keynote speech of the Convention. He spoke about the many challenges faced by the global society, including political and ideological polarization, authoritarianism, as well as the many threats to human rights, particularly the freedom to follow one’s faith or conscience.



To address these and many other challenges, Dr. Moon presented a vision and path forward that could transform conflict while advancing new, creative solutions to some of the most intractable challenges in the world today. “To live together in peace and prosperity we must understand that beyond these many differences, we are one family who share the same origin in the Creator God,” he

“Peacebuilding is the business of everybody. In our homes, we are peacebuilders, in our institutions of learning, we are peacebuilders, those in the media world are peacebuilders.”

—Bishop Onuoha Sunday, founder and President of Vision Africa

said. “The vision of One Family under God can unite us since it shows the pathway to true global unity in diversity.”

In order to understand how to build such a world, the GPF Chairman focused on the American experiment and its lessons for such a task:

The U.S. Declaration of Independence lays out the foundation of a principled polity with the words, “all men are created equal and endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights.” It proclaims the fundamental value and dignity of every human life, and recognizes as self-evident that the Source of that value, and the rights it entails, is eternal and universal. Therefore, those rights cannot be abrogated by any ruler or human institution.

Just as the American Republic built its governing institutions, a free-market economy and social institutions around those ideals, he said, the global network of moral, innovative peacebuilders can work to coordinate practical, social programs and actions around the vision and principles implicit in the vision of “One Family Under God.” These would, in turn, build a culture to support families to raise the moral and innovative leaders who will become the peacebuilders of tomorrow.

A focus on character education “first in the family, then in schools, should raise future generations with the grounding in moral principles, the spirit of public service, and the practical skills to move the world closer to the ideal of One Family under God,” Dr. Moon said. These communities would be instrumental to raise the “peacebuilders of tomorrow” that would usher in a new era of peace and mutual prosperity.

The work continues

The main Convention plenary concluded all the events of the Global Peace Convention in 2021 with the charge to redouble peacebuilding efforts on all levels,

 <p>Father Canice Enyiaka Interfaith / Community Outreach Specialist, GPF (Moderator)</p>  <p>Bishop Sunday N Onuoha Founder, Present, Vision Africa</p>  <p>Chief Robert Joseph Chairman, Native American Leadership Alliance for Peace and Reconciliation</p> <p>VALUES-BASED PEACEBUILDING</p>	 <p>Mr. Andy Sul Exec. Vice Pres., Alliance for Korea United USA (Moderator)</p>  <p>Mr. Inteck Seo Co-Chair, Action for Korea United</p>  <p>Dr. Chanil An Korean Unification Expert, Broadcast Journalist</p>  <p>Prof. Kyung-Young Chung Policy Advisor, National Security Office, Blue House</p> <p>TOWARDS A FREE AND UNIFIED KOREA</p>
 <p>Dr. Paul Murray Vice President, Office of Intl Religious Freedom, GPF (Moderator)</p>  <p>Amb. Sam Brownback Former U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom</p>  <p>Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM</p>	 <p>Dr. Tony Devine VP Education, Global Peace Foundation (Moderator)</p>  <p>Dr. Andreas Schleicher Director, Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD</p>  <p>Mr. Royston Cabunag Program Director, Program for Children and Youth, SM Cares</p>  <p>Rev. Canon Rosemary Mbogo Provincial Secretary, Anglican Church of Kenya</p> <p>MORAL AND INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP</p>

renewed and strengthened by the content, interactions, discussions, and relationships throughout the Convention. Videos of all the sessions held throughout the GPC 2021 remain open for re-play On-Demand. ■

International Forum Urges Support for a Free and Unified Korea as a Catalyst for Regional and Global Transformation

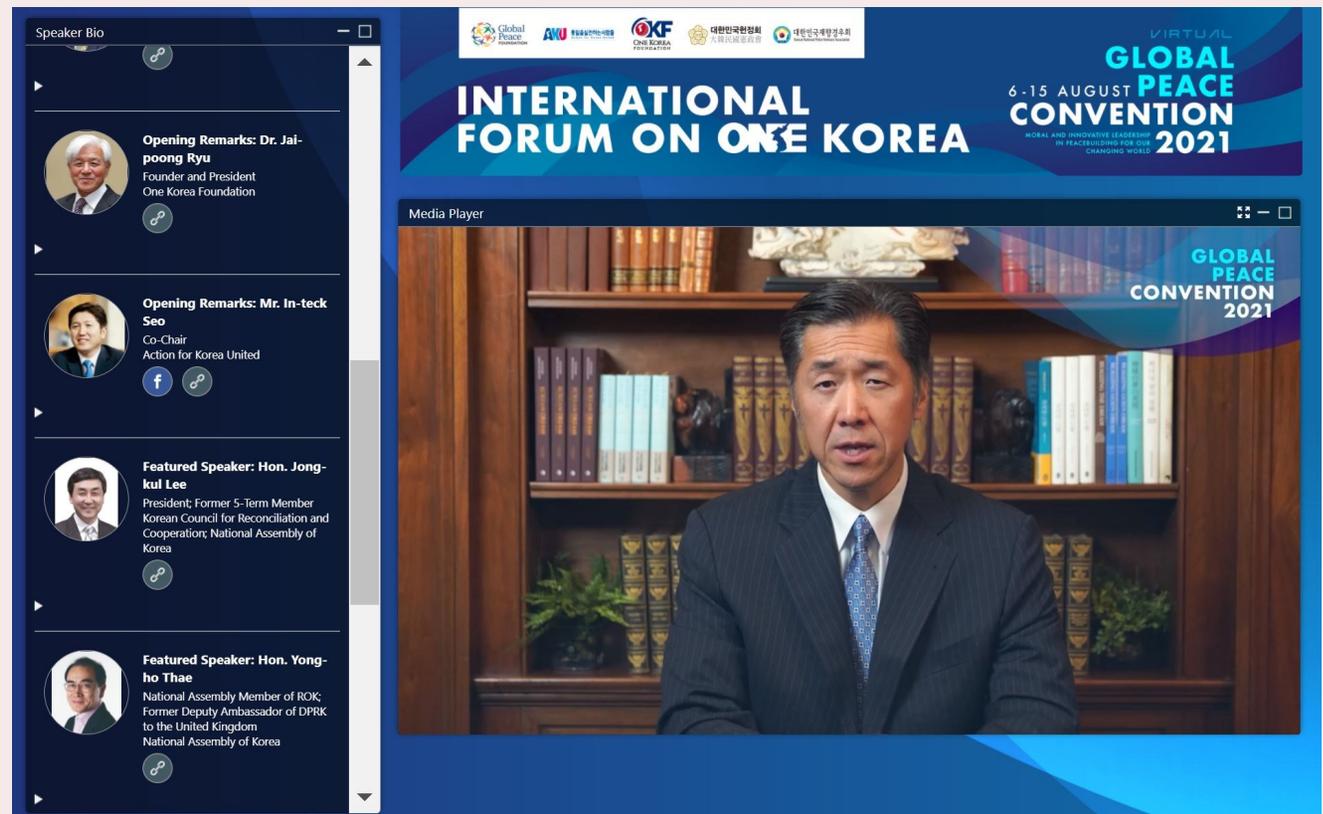
by Eric Olsen

Dozens of experts from China, the ROK, Japan, Russia, Mongolia, India, the UK, and the United States evaluated the complexities of resolving the North Korean threat, prospects of regional economic integration, and recent developments toward peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula during a August 6-14 convening of the International Forum on One Korea.

Addressing the Forum’s closing plenary in a policy speech on August 12, Global Peace Foundation Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Moon said, “Korean unification will bring economic benefits that would bring together the existing synergistic elements of both Koreas for the benefit of all.”

He noted that the South “has a highly developed economy that is in dire need of new avenues for growth. The North provides those opportunities through its untapped natural resources, extensive need for new industries and infrastructure, an expanded labor pool, and in the long run, a larger combined domestic market.”

The GPF chairman said the Koreas will be united one way or another—“a matter of when, not if.” The question, he said, is what kind of a nation will that united Korea be? “Do we merely wait to react to change when it happens, or should we, as Koreans, take responsibility now to shape the future of that new nation?”



Global Peace Foundation Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Moon

The International Forum on One Korea Forum series, and expert forums convened by the Global Peace Foundation in Seoul, Washington, and other cities around the world for more than a decade, have been engaging scholars and experts in advancing a bold new framework that focuses on the goal of a free and unified Korea.

Citing Dr. Moon’s 2014 book *Korean Dream*, Heritage Foundation founder

“A peaceful and prosperous Korea is key for the future development of Northeast Asia and Asia-Pacific region.”

—Wang Huiyao, the Founder and President of the Center for China and Globalization

Edwin Feulner stressed “the importance of an overarching vision for a United Korea and the principles that should guide that vision and the need for a vigorous civil society to play a central role in the pursuit of unification.”

The Korean Dream, he said, “emphasizes the principle of Hongik Ingan, which means ‘to live for the greater benefit of humanity.’ This principle is associated with the very origins of the Korean nation. It highlights the need to move the pursuit of unification outside the exclusive sphere of government, to engage the support of the Korean people as a whole and friends around the world, particularly through what we call civil society.”

The Korean Dream changes the approach “from a singular focus on denuclearization to a comprehensive view including other critical issues such governance, human rights and economic development,” GPF International President James Flynn told the forum. “It provides a lens to assess not only the challenges but also the significant opportunities that will open for all the Korean people in a free and unified Korea.”

Advancing human rights and global security

“A peaceful and prosperous Korea is key for the future development of Northeast Asia and Asia-Pacific region, said Wang Huiyao, the Founder and President of the Center for China and Globalization at the closing session. “China hopes to see a peaceful process of reunification of Korea without interference of foreign influence, settled by the Korean people in both the DPRK and ROK themselves.”

Other presenters noted the significant obstacles of bringing meaningful change with the Kim regime. “The challenge of the enduring threats and provocations from North Korea will require close coordination and cooperation between the United States and South Korea, as well as with our surrounding allies, and is central to security in the region,” U.S. Rep. Young Kim (CA) told the forum.

“We cannot make the mistake of rushing the process. This is a long-term problem that would require long term strategies. Finally, we must recognize that con-

fronting North Korea on its horrendous human rights abuses is essential to securing verifiable commitments from the Kim regime.”

Dr. William Parker, former President and CEO of the East West Institute and the National Defense University Foundation, cautioned that if North Korea's nuclear program is not eliminated, South Korea and Japan will likely become nuclear nations in the near term. The Chinese will respond with increased nuclear weapons and defensive capabilities. “Nuclear proliferation, Parker said, “will greatly increase the risk of losing control of fiscal material worldwide.”



U.S. Rep. Young Kim (top) and Chinese executive Wang Huiyao.

“Contacts between societies of the two states on the Korean peninsula should be established and expanded as far as possible before, and not after the unification.”

—Elena Boykova, professor at the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences



Stimson Center analyst Vladimir Ivanov (top) and Heritage Foundation founder Edwin Feulner.

Former UK Ambassador to the DPRK John Everard described the dire economic realities facing North Korea and the looming threat of famine in the North. “Now this is important because it means that although we haven’t yet achieved denuclearization . . . we are now much closer, I think, than much of the international community recognizes. Quite simply, in the present situation North Korea needs all the friends it can get.”

Human rights and governance

An August 8 forum, Human Rights and Governance, presented a sobering overview of North Korea’s institutionalized

human rights violations, with Session I focusing on the regime’s strict control of information and Session II examining the generations’ long separation of families following the division of Korea in 1953.

Suzanne Scholte, President of the North Korea Freedom Coalition and a leading expert on North Korean human rights violations, catalogued the creative ways defectors bring information to the North, and how the regime in turn attempts to

thwart these efforts. Other presenters denounced the Moon administration in South Korea for outlawing efforts from defectors and human rights groups to send truthful information into the North.

Korea specialists in Session II, Family Reunions, said some 10 million Korean families have been forcibly separated since the Korean War, violating the spiritual and ethical heritage of the traditional Korean family model and its 5,000 years of common history. Koreans living abroad have few political options to reconnect with their North Korean families.

“North Korea regards the issue of the Divided Families between the two Koreas as a political issue and uses it as propaganda for the regime, as a negotiating card for inter-Korean relations, or as a means of pursuing profit,” said Man-soon Jang, President of the Korean Assembly for Reunion of Ten-Million Separated Families. Panelists said family reunification should be recognized as a human rights issue, not merely a humanitarian issue.

Peace and security

An August 7 Korea forum, Peace and Security, assessed the complexities of resolving diverging social, cultural and political realities since the division of Korea some 73 years ago. “According to some experts, Koreans are no longer a divided nation, but actually two nations,” said Elena Boykova, a professor at the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

She said significant differences dictate the need to “create conditions for the peoples of the two countries to ‘get to know, get used to’ each other and, ultimately, to create relations based on mutual trust. Contacts between societies of the two states on the Korean Peninsula should be established and expanded as far as possible before, and not after the unification.”

Former Mongolian Ambassador to the UN Jargalsaikhan Enksaikhan and Dr. John Endicott, Limited Nuclear Weapon Free Zone architect and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, discussed advances in the establishment of a Northeast Asia Nuclear-

“Peacebuilding is the business of everybody. In our homes, we are peacebuilders, in our institutions of learning, we are peacebuilders, those in the media world are peacebuilders.”

—*Bishop Onuoha Sunday, founder and President of Vision Africa*

Weapons-Free Zone that would avoid exclusive focus on North Korean denuclearization to ensure the entire region would renounce the development and use of nuclear weapons.

Great power geopolitical interests also require equally complex diplomacy. “At some point in the unification process, collective security assurances should be given to both DPRK and ROK, to make sure that either of them or the unified Korea are not used as a bargaining chip or a hostage in a larger regional conflict, e.g. between U.S. and China,” said Vladimir Ivanov, an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center.

Economic opportunities

Two sessions on August 11 explored the topics Economic Challenges and Opportunities Toward a Free and Unified Korea, and Tourism, Culture and Sports Stimulating Economic Integration and Development of a Free and Unified Korea. Economists from Australia, China, Japan, and the U.S., and a North Korean defector described the opportunities for regional economic development and the importance of cultural exchange, and the critical role of civil society in promoting peace and eventual reunification.

Dr. Leonid Petrov, a Senior Lecturer at the International College of Management in Sydney, argued that “the Sunshine Policy (1998-2008) demonstrates that peaceful co-existence is the preferred and most feasible scenario for both economic cooperation between the DPRK and ROK.”

Dr. Petrov said that if collaboration in nuclear energy generation, transportation corridors and environmental projects are added to the inter-Korean cooperation agenda, Pyongyang and Seoul would have more incentives to co-exist peacefully.

Mi-ja, Kim, the President of Korea Tourism Support Service Association quoted a Goldman Sachs analysis projecting that a unified Korea could overtake the



Hon. Yong-ho Thae, National Assembly Member of ROK; Former Deputy Ambassador of DPRK to the United Kingdom.

G7 of France, Germany, and Japan within 30 to 40 years and become the central axis of the Northeast Asia center. The DMZ, an untouched ecological region separating the Koreas, could serve as gateway to peaceful unification and an enduring symbol of world peace, Kim said.

Some 75 scholars, policy makers, civil society leaders and human rights activists participated in nine sessions over five days on Peace and Security, Human Rights and Governance, and Economy. The International Forum on One Korea is one focus area of August 6-15 Global Peace Convention, the flagship bi-annual assembly of the Global Peace Foundation, hosted virtually in 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

The 2021 Global Peace Convention coordinated some 30 sessions in eight thematic tracks, highlighting values-based peacebuilding, innovations in education, women and youth leadership, and international religious freedom advocacy. ■

Religious Freedom Advocates Call on Governments to Respect ‘Inner Freedom’ of Religion and Conscience as a Fundamental Human Right

by Emiko Perea

2021 Global Peace Convention Panelists Warn that Religious Freedom is at Risk Globally

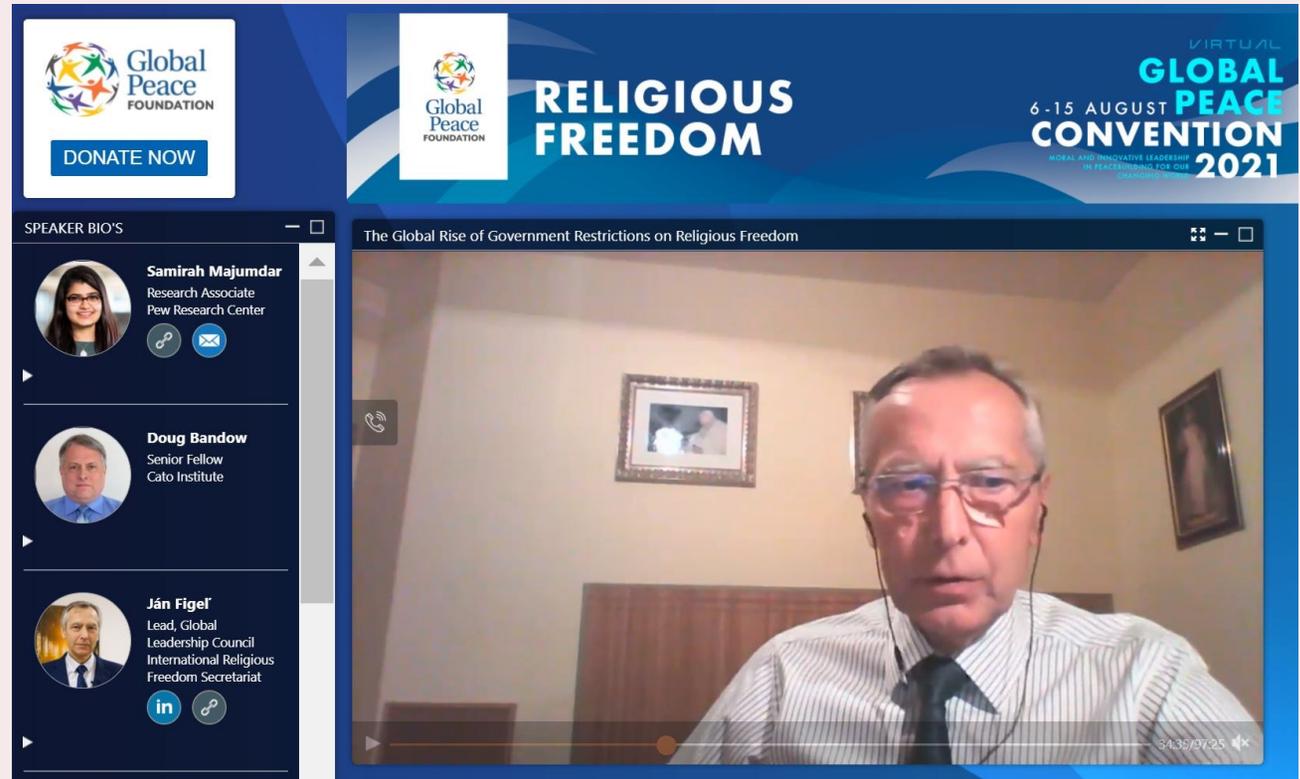
Religious freedom is a litmus test of all human rights,” said Ján Figel’, Former European Commissioner and Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief. Addressing the Inter-religious Freedom Track at the 2021 Global Peace Convention, Figel’ said religious freedom “is the deepest expression of human dignity and freedom. If this most inner freedom is not respected, the others will not be respected.”

Panels over three days covering Government Restrictions on Religious Freedom, Religious Freedom as a Human Right, and the convening of the South Korea Interreligious Freedom Roundtable affirmed that freedom of religion and freedom of conscience are fundamental and the foundation for peace in the world. High levels of religious freedom promote peaceful democracies, tolerance, and interreligious cooperation, panelists said. Despite the importance of religious freedom, it is denied or abridged in most countries.

“Religious liberty is going to have an effect on other beliefs,” said Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow from the Cato Institute. “The government that refuses to ac-

cept and recognize the freedom of people to answer to what they perceive to be God, the transcendent, something that is ultimately important for anyone, is not likely to let you make choices about politics, to allow you to make decisions in terms of who governs you. It is not likely to allow you to make decisions on moral issues and how to live your life.”

Other presenters stressed that religious liberty must be seen as an essential aspect of human rights and be given protections by governments.



Ján Figel’, Former European Commissioner and Special Envoy

“Religious freedom is the deepest expression of human dignity and freedom. If this most inner freedom is not respected, the others will not be respected.” —Ján Figel’, Former European Commissioner

According to a report presented by Samirah Majumdar, Research Associate at the Pew Research Center, “Among the 25 most populous countries, India, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Russia had the highest levels of government restrictions and social hostilities.” Harsh restrictions on religious freedom, moreover, have increased substantially since 2007. Not only do they exist in authoritarian governments, but also within many democracies in Europe.

Religious persecution is also seen in many countries where women suffer social harassment for wearing clothes that appear to violate either secular or religious codes. In several European countries, the government restricts women’s head covering, and women are harassed for not appearing secular enough. Meanwhile, women in the Middle East and North Africa are abused for adopting secular attire.

“As government restrictions are in place, this exacerbates social tensions, government clamps down even more on society, society gets more tense,” said Peter Henne, Professor of the University of Vermont. Governments putting restrictions on religious freedom will not prevent terrorism as these governments intend, speakers said. Instead, these restrictions will lead to more terrorism. When missionary families are expelled from their countries or when men and women are imprisoned for their beliefs, this builds resentment and leads to further radicalization.

Authoritarian regimes such as China and North Korea view religion as a political threat to their government. China has forced Uyghurs, a mostly Muslim ethnic group, into re-education camps and this regime continues to push its longstanding discrimination against Christians which includes imprisoning pastors and closing down churches.

Korean panelists especially emphasized that North Korea needs to respect religious freedom as a critical component to relate to South Korea when discussing reunification in the future. Unlike North Korea, South Korea has a strong foundation of religious freedom, with millions of Buddhists and Christians freely practicing their faith in the country. Bob Fu, president of ChinaAid and a Christian convert from China, argued that South Korea should ally itself with home

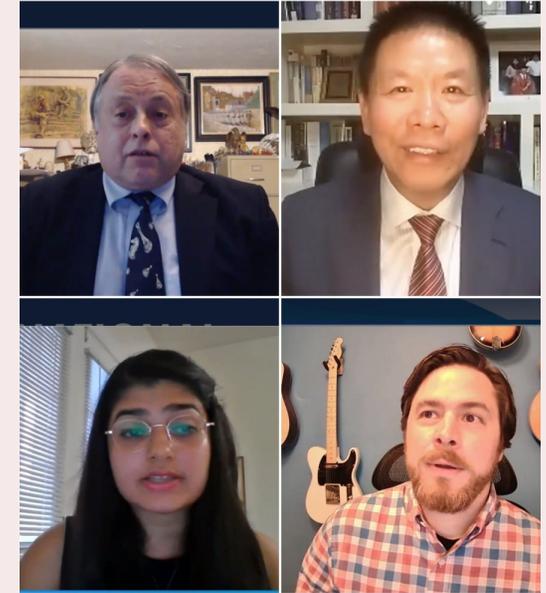
churches in China which he said will help advance religious freedom in both China and North Korea.

Ensuring religious freedom is a means to foster peace and prevent violence, panelists said. “We need to work together because my faith is personal to me. Your faith is personal to you, and we need to have that freedom,” said Rev. Susan Taylor, National Public Affairs Director with the Church of Scientology.

Greg Mitchell, chairman of the International Religious Freedom Secretariat, said, “Lasting relationships are built, creating something much stronger than tolerance. The longer we gather and share our stories, the stronger the mutual understanding and respect.”

International Religious Freedom Roundtables convene NGOs and individuals from any and no faith and work for freedom of religion or belief. Roundtables are hosted around the world and build mutual reliance and trust among participants from different religious backgrounds.

The August 6-15, 2021 Global Peace Convention, a bi-annual assembly of the Global Peace Foundation, organized some 30 sessions in eight thematic tracks, highlighting values-based peacebuilding, religious freedom initiatives, innovations in education, women and youth leadership, and advances toward a peaceful, reunified Korea. ■



Top: Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow from the Cato Institute; Bob Fu, President of ChinaAid; Bottom: Samirah Majumdar, Research Associate at the Pew Research Center, Peter Henne, Professor at the University of Vermont.

Service-minded Women Advancing Peace in the Home and World During Unprecedented Times



By Anu Lama

The Women's Leadership track of the Global Peace Convention highlighted the critical role of women in navigating the unique challenges of this time. The Plenary and Best Practices Workshop showcased the diversity and power of service-minded women working together towards peace.

Members of the Global Peace Women (GPW) International Advisory Council addressed the sobering realities of more than a year since the outbreak of the global pandemic, recognizing the heroic efforts of women around the world who supported families in efforts to promote the physical, mental and emotional well-being for all.

GPW Chairwoman Dr. Junsook Moon encouraged women to continue their selfless service for their families and communities. "How can we as women, as leaders contribute to opening of path to a brighter future?" she asked. She emphasized the essential and unique contributions of both men and women in creating families that cultivate healthy individuals and a peaceful world.

"Let us work together towards a common vision of a world where every woman, man, child and family can pursue their utmost potential in peace."

Hon Lilian Samaniego, national senator of the Republic of Paraguay, called for more efforts to support women in leadership. "Women leaders serve as role models when they give their time and soul to the social causes of their communities," she said.

Speakers Dr. Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo, founder of I-Care Women and



Dr. Junsook Moon, GPW Chairwoman

Youth, Dr. Nona Ricafort, former Deputy Ministry of Higher Education in the Philippines, and Dr. Eva Latham, founder of Human Rights Teaching International in the Netherlands, emphasized the importance of advancing women leadership in the home and world. Dr. Sambo noted that while poverty has the "face of a woman," when a woman is empowered, the entire family is lifted out of hunger, disease and conflict.

"A mother never gives up and always meets challenges," said Dr. Sambo. Dr. Ricafort emphasized the role of women in sowing seeds of peace in her family.

“Let us work together towards a common vision of a world where every woman, man, child and family can pursue their utmost potential in peace.”

—Dr. Junsook Moon, Global Peace Women Chairwoman

“The family is where our children’s character can sprout and grow.” Dr. Latham urged women to seize opportunities that challenges pose and seek ethical solutions. “We can make those challenges appear to go to very good sustainable solutions,” said Dr. Latham.

The Global Peace Women Best Practices Workshop showcased diverse peacebuilding efforts led by service-minded women and guided by a family-based approach.

Breakout rooms opened candid conversations with the women peace practitioners about complex issues including:

- Korean Reunification and Youth Activism
- Faith Leaders and Values-Based Peacebuilding
- Gang Violence and Drug Abuse Prevention and Intervention: The Unique Role of the Family and Community
- Uplifting and Empowering Women through Grassroots Education and Engagement of Men and Women
- Mental Health Support for Adolescents during the COVID19 Pandemic
- Raising Peacemakers, Restoring Community: Weaving Service and Kindness into Everyday Family Life

“We really need to be human, love is part of values, it is part of human nature,” summarized Nibia Pizzo, country leader of Global Peace Woomen Uruguay. Ms. Pizzo initiated a support hotline for adolescents and families during the COVID19



Hon Lilian Samaniego, national senator of the Republic of Paraguay, Dr. Hajjiya Amina Namadi Sambo, founder of I-Care Women and Youth, Dr. Ricafort, former Deputy Ministry of Higher Education in the Philippines, and Dr. Eva Latham, founder of Human Rights Teaching International in the Netherlands (top to bottom)

lockdowns in Uruguay.

The Women’s Leadership track covered broad ground with a strong call to action. “Together, with our collective strength of service, heart and care, we will get through these times, and we will create a brighter, greater future,” said Dr. Junsook Moon. ■

Global Youth Forum Says Service, Innovation, Entrepreneurship Offer Promise to Youth for Economic and Social Progress

2021 Global Peace Convention Hosts Youth Forum on Achieving 2030 UN SDGs



by Anu Lama

According to UN estimates, youth between ages 15 and 24 years represented one in every six persons worldwide in 2019. Some one billion young people will try to enter the job market over the next decade according to World Bank projections, but less than half will find jobs, potentially exacerbating inequalities and social and political instability.

Addressing a Global Peace and Development Service forum, “Youth Enterprise and Social Innovation: Achieving the 2030 Goals for Sustainable Peace and Development,” on August 11, Kenyan philanthropist and industrialist Dr. Manu Chandaria reminded participants from around the world that youths “are blessed with

Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chairman of Comcraft, GPF Africa Patron, and Global Leadership Council of Nairobi Kenya

the free gift of energy and dynamism.” He encouraged them to transform challenges into opportunities through acknowledgment of reality, mending relationships, personal integrity, and a strategic mindset and character that emphasizes “service to others.”

The forum, convened as part of the 2021 Global Peace Convention, was the culmination of a series of regional buildup summits and capacity building and action initiatives in Africa, the Americas, and South and Northeast Asia, with a strategic objective of achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Experts and field managers examined best practices in the thematic areas relating to the sustainable development goals, including the environment, peacebuilding, and employment and youth enterprise in the midst of the COVID pandemic and beyond.

Panelists emphasized that service, youth enterprise and social innovation are essential in achieving sustainable goals. Service and volunteerism “is very complex, adapting to changing social, economic, and ecological realities,” said Dr. Markanday Rai, president of the Global Peace and Development Service Alliance. With an estimated one billion volunteers involved globally, Rai said, “volunteering is universal. Studies confirm that women take more of a role, yet volunteers come from all sectors, from youth to retirement age.”

Service and volunteerism cross all national, ethnic, and ideological boundaries

Service and volunteerism cross all national, ethnic, and ideological boundaries and are a catalyst for peace.

and are a catalyst for peace, speakers said. Regional and national service alliances are a powerful means of inclusion of often-marginalized groups. Volunteer programs also support development, entrepreneurship and opportunity, while volunteers can learn new skills and develop an ethic of service to others.

Innovation and entrepreneurship

The forum highlighted youth social enterprise competition participants from Nepal, Mongolia and Philippines who shared their innovative projects.

In the three breakout rooms where the model projects were shared, experts and professionals engaged with participants based on themes of Youth Environment Tourism- South Asia and Africa Model; Youth Leadership- South East Asia Model; and Youth Training and Movement- Americas and Northeast Asia Model.

Youth Environment Tourism- South Asia and Africa Model Global Peace Foundation Nepal President Ram Rohan Panta presented the Peace, Environment and Tourism (PET) Model in Nepal for sustainable development through cross cultural initiatives. Joining him in the session, Kiragenda Sinan, Program Coordinator for Global Peace and Development Service Alliance Uganda, talked about the Ecobrixx Green Enterprise Model in Uganda, with a closed-loop plastic recycling model for sustainable development that has created awareness as well as more green jobs for women and persons with disabilities.

Youth Leadership- South East Asia Model Jatume Thuenmuenwai, Chief Coordinator of IGEN Thailand, shared about the Peace and Youth Leadership model in Thailand where youths are appointed as “Youth Peace Ambassadors” for sustainable peace, starting with self-actualization. GPF Program Development Assistant for Youth Initiatives Fahly Poblete talked about Global Youth Summit model as a platform for youth leadership and project incubation for solutions that benefit the society with 3 Es (Equip, Engage, Empower) and 3Ds (Design, Develop and Deliver).

Youth Training and Movement- Americas and Northeast Asia Model Vinicius Mendes, Founder of BESOURO Brazil, shared about the BESOURO Model of youth



entrepreneurship and social transformation training. He talked about empowering youths and the socially vulnerable through technical skills and providing resources for their entrepreneurship journey.

Nomunsor Soronzonbold, Assistant Director of My Club Tree Planting, said the One Million Trees Movement had the goal to improve the environment and foster sustainable development by fostering citizens who love and care for nature. The movement has resulted in the planting of over a million trees in Mongolia.

"Become a change agent in your own community and in your life," said David Caprara, Strategic Adviser for GPDSA, encouraging youths to continue in their path of innovation, impact and change. In concluding remarks, Nicholas Lee, Secretary General GPDSA asked participants to reflect on the past and think about where one is at present and live for the sake of others, taking responsibility for planet and the next generation for lasting peace.

The 2021 Global Peace Convention is a bi-annual assembly of the Global Peace Foundation. The August 6-15 convening hosted some 30 sessions in eight thematic tracks, highlighting values-based peacebuilding, innovations in education, women and youth leadership, international religious freedom, and advances toward a peaceful, reunified Korea. ■

International Peace Forum Urges Community-based Solutions, Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism

Values-based Peacebuilding Sessions at 2021 Global Peace Convention Examine the Roots of Extremism and Strategies for Resolving Conflict

by Emiko Perea

Youth are being more and more understood as needed at the forefront for efforts against violent extremism. They are the ones experiencing hate and violent extremism in their societies,” said Isabella Caravaggio, Program Analyst for Prevention of Violent Extremism UNDP, during the Values-based Peacebuilding Track from the 2021 Global Peace Convention on August 6-15.

Violent extremism and human rights violations in large parts of the world are often traced to identity-based conflict centered on race, ethnicity, and religion. To prevent further violence and divisions in the communities, panelists noted that peacebuilders needed to connect with leaders of the communities and faith leaders to develop peacebuilding projects to educate young people and bridge the gap between groups in conflict.

In recent years, violent extremists have recruited vulnerable young people many in countries. “People are joining violent extremist organizations not because they believe in the ideology, but because they didn't see any other opportunities to develop their own education or to have their own livelihood,” said Arriza Nocum, Founder and Executive Director for KRIS for Peace, “so they chose this path of violence.”

Noraída Chio, a Senior Program Officer at the Asia Foundation in the Philippines, enumerated many significant and successful projects initiated in Mindanao, which has been embroiled in political violence, identity-based conflict, and ethnic



Isabella Caravaggio, program analyst, UNDP

and religious divisions for decades. “We found that the key influencers to prevent radicalization were actually mothers,” she said. “Strengthening the ability of mothers to work with their children to choose nonviolence, was seen as one very effective way to curb the youth from choosing extremism.”

“When you have young people who are ready to sacrifice for the common good, for the greater good, for the whole society, then there is a hope for the future.”

—Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, Chairman of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Kenya

Violent extremism is especially a problem during electoral campaigns in African countries. Electoral misinformation incites violence and threatens the stability of the democratic process. “The fear that comes from these violent attacks is a way of stopping people from coming out to vote,” said Sentell Barnes, Program Director for International Republican Institute.

To counter this, organizations such as International Republican Institute share the best practices of democracy and work in elections in multiple countries to strengthen the electoral process. “If you can suppress the vote,” Barnes said, “you can pretty much dictate who wins the election. A lot of this is about suppressing the votes with a harsh impact on the way that people see democracy.”

Cultivating peace

Despite the prominent presence of violence and identity-based conflict, panelists advanced a hopeful message of achieving peace in areas of conflict. “We saw that peace was possible because we saw it in our home. We felt it in our home. My parents cultivated a home in which Islam and Christianity coexisted,” said Nocum.

Based on her experience of living in a home with a Catholic dad and a Muslim mom, Nocum knew that Islam and Christianity can exist peacefully together. This experience inspired Nocum’s family to start KRIS for Peace to educate and empower youth as peacebuilders to create harmony amongst different groups.

The KRIS for Peace’s first initiative was the library project, which resulted in Muslim and Christian children forging bonds. Panelists listed other examples of programs and initiatives bringing together people from conflicting groups. In another instance, Yussef Paglas, a community youth leader, mentioned that a Catholic-based organization worked with Paglas’s local community to help provide housing in a predominately Muslim area. Catholics and Muslims set aside their differences to help each other, which gave further evidence that it is possible to create peace between groups in conflict.

Yussef also spoke of when many armed young men attacked Paglas’s town.

Supporting youth in PVE



Strengthening knowledge and skills, providing opportunities for practice through mini grants and mentorship programs



Creating networks of young people & youth organizations with different knowledge and experiences, skill sets, online audiences



Facilitating sharing of success and failure, encouraging youth-led problem-solving



Shortly after that, police forces and elected officials from the town connected young people to the organization called “Action against Drug and Terrorism” to prevent an event like that from happening again. Panelists encouraged young people to participate in peacebuilding programs to teach them about the context of conflicts and to inspire them to create peace in their communities.

Isabella Caravaggio gave an example of young people utilizing social media platforms in creative ways to spread a message of peace. She said that the United Nations Development Program’s United Creatives program supported young leaders and creators in Sri Lanka and the Maldives to create digital campaigns to tackle hate speech, give positive messages, and create change.

The Values-based Peacebuilding Track gave focus on creating peace based on shared values throughout its nine sessions. The sessions covered Strengthening Social Cohesion, Community Peacebuilding, Interreligious Peacebuilding, Empowering Youth, Global Ethics in Community Peacebuilding, Preventing Violent Extremism, Countering Violence and Misinformation during the Electoral process, Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Tools, and Cohesion and Solidarity. ■



2021 Global Peace Convention Hosts Educators to Explore Post-pandemic Learning Landscape

Educators Face Challenges and Find Opportunities to Prepare Youth for the Twenty-first Century Workplace and Globalized World

By Eric Olsen

The global pandemic is “a wakeup call, an unprecedented disruption in education that has underscored the need to turn the challenge into an opportunity by rethinking and reimagining education,” said Brajesh Panth, Chief of the Education Sector Group at the Asian Development Bank, at an international education forum on August 10.

Convened remotely due to the pandemic, the three-day forum, “Transforming Education through Values, Innovation and Future Ready Skills,” engaged educators, policy makers, and private sector leaders, with registered participants from around the globe joining interactive sessions.

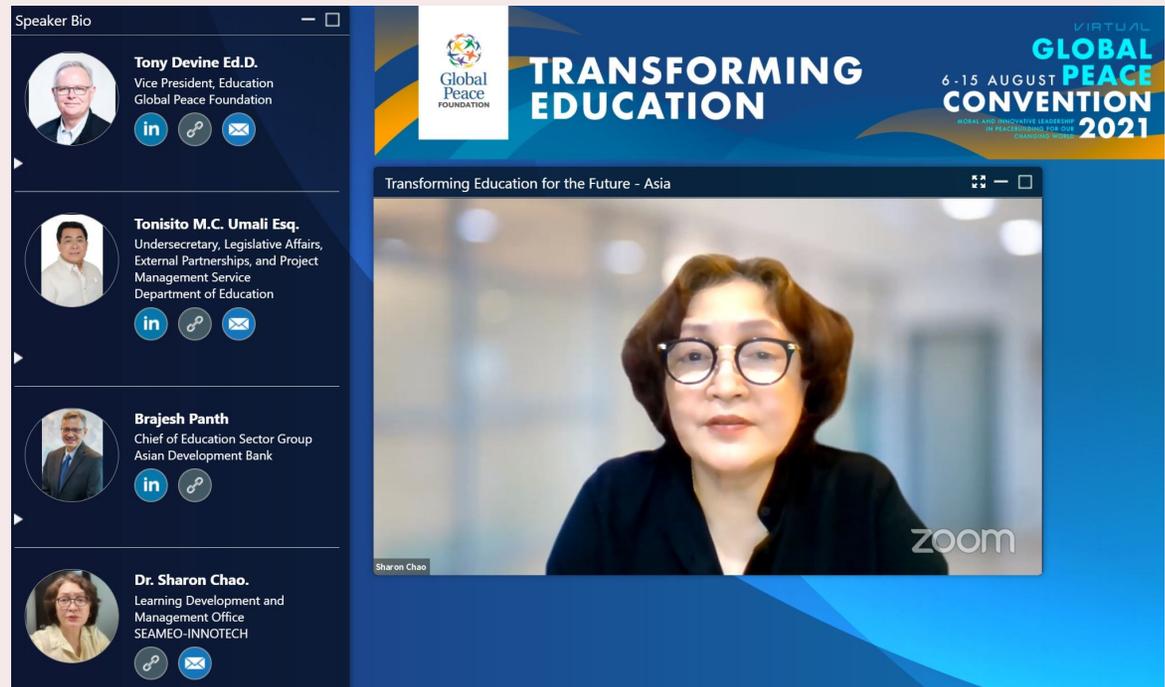
The forum highlighted efforts not only to develop innovative remote and hybrid learning models in response to the pandemic, but also to present a comprehensive, society-based education paradigm to meet the demands of the twenty-first century workplace and, above all, foster peace in communities and globally.

Panelists said teachers, students, parents, and community leaders are all called to collaborate. School is becoming redefined. It is no longer a specific place. Formal education can happen anywhere. Essential social and academic competencies must be mastered to ensure that students have the capacity to positively impact their lives, work, communities, and world.

“Future-ready skills are in high demand by employers,” said Global Peace Foundation Vice President for Education Dr. Tony Devine, “yet these need to be guided by shared values in the application of value-neutral knowledge and tech-

nologies to solve the pressing problems of our time for the benefit of humanity. Correspondingly, teachers and school leaders will need to re-imagine their roles by having the future arc of their students at heart in creating engaging, innovative, personalized, and collaborative school cultures.”

This education network needs to be equipped not only with the tools and resources for an evolving learning environment but also with social supports to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and cross-cultural understanding,



Dr. Sharon Chao, SEAMEO-INNOTECH

“Peace is a state of tranquility, a state of harmony, and every educational system should seek to develop a skilled, ethical, peaceful citizen.” —Prof. Charles Ong’ondo, the CEO of the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development

including guidance for youth encountering extremist ideologies. Education will need to address core issues like food security, poverty reduction, environmental threats and other sustainable development priorities, educators agreed.

“Personalized learning shouldn’t be limited just to knowledge acquisition and skill acquisition,” said Arthur Schwartz, President of Character.org, at one forum, “Envisioning a Thriving 21st Century Civilization: Youth Making It Happen.” He encouraged educators to hear students’ voices and apply it to character development “to help students seek out these core values that serve as their moral compass.”

Values can be taught, caught, and sought, another panelist said—taught through lesson planning, caught by the example of teachers and mentors, and sought when students intuitively seek to embrace values to become part of who they are, their identity.

Some educators said the evolving digital environment can enhance the quality, engagement, and outcomes of learning, with a greater capacity to tailor lessons to the specific needs and level of students than the traditional classroom. A high-quality education ensures a wholistic framework of knowledge, values and character, including critical thinking and cognitive flexibility, problem solving and digital literacy.

Others cautioned that while focusing on the development of critical thinking skills and e-learning tools, the Covid pandemic has led to social isolation and a disruptive home learning environment for many youth. Teachers must check on students’ mental wellbeing, panelists cautioned, and intensify the focus on the social and emotional skills of students.

Transforming education: toward a peaceful world

Peace education, service learning, revitalization of community support, and technological capacity are all needed to prepare future-ready youth. “Peace is a state of tranquility, a state of harmony and every educational system should seek

What crucial competencies are necessary for teachers to succeed now and in the future?



WWW.SEAMEO-INNOTECH.ORG

to promote a state of harmony, of tranquility, to develop a skilled, ethical, peaceful citizen,” observed Prof. Charles Ong’ondo, the CEO of the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development.

Collaboration across the private and the public sector, among different countries within the region and even around the globe, is a key to meeting the education challenge of preparing students for success in the twenty-first century and fostering a peaceful society.

The Transforming Education Track included seven dedicated forums addressing regional and local education priorities in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, India, Africa, the Americas and globally in sessions over three days.

The forums were organized as part of the August 6-15 Global Peace Convention, “Moral and Innovative Leadership in Peacebuilding for Our Changing World.” A flagship bi-annual assembly of the Global Peace Foundation, the Convention was hosted virtually due to Covid restrictions, with eight tracks and some 30 sessions highlighting values-based peacebuilding, advances toward a free and unified Korea, women and youth leadership, and religious freedom as a fundamental human right. ■

Youth Collaboration, Sustainability, Health and Innovation Take the Spotlight at 2021 Global Youth Summit



Educators Face Challenges and Find Opportunities to Prepare Youth for the Twenty-first Century Workplace and Globalized World

by Fahly Poblete-Handa

Some 6,400 youth from Asia, Africa, North America and Europe examined youth collaboration in addressing key UN Sustainable Development Goals at the ninth Global Youth Summit, convened virtually on August 13-14.

The two-day summit addressed the most critical issues related to five goals—SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. The topics were selected through a poll that involved 1,996 youth respondents, and presented through inspiring talks delivered by some of today's industry leaders, change-makers and social media influencers.

The summit was hosted by SM Cares and Global Peace Foundation (GPF), in partnership with Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, CIE British School, Rotary Club of Makati Circle of Friends, Nestle Philippines, Unilever, and Globe Telecom, in conjunction with the 2021 Global Peace Convention. The event was hosted via Zoom and On24, and broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube.

On Day 1, physician and online content creator Dr. Kilimanguru Tiwaquen and Department of Health OIC and Undersecretary Dr. Maria Vergeire emphasized strategies ensuring community safety in the time of the pandemic; and SM Foundation Trustee Chito Macapagal and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Dr. Ethel Valenzuela emphasized the importance of education for future success.



Toward a sustainable future

Day 2 speakers included renowned urban planner Felino “Jun” Palafox and NEO Offices CEO Raymond Rufino, who discussed sustainable urban planning and green buildings; Nestle Philippines Head of Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Arlene Tan-Bantoto, and Local Roots Agricultural Farming and Services Founder Leo Casclang, who both discussed ways to achieve food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture; and Globe Telecom’s President and CEO

“Be creative and innovate continuously. Even if an idea is ahead of its time, as long as the problem to be solved remains, I think one should hold steadfast and really push after that problem.”

—Globe Telecom’s President and CEO Ernest Cu



Ernest Cu and Wonderful Employee Experience Director Atty. Nicolette Bambao, who gave presentations on creativity and innovation as important skills for the twenty-first century.

In his message to the youth, Cu said: “Be creative and innovate continuously. Even if an idea is ahead of its time, as long as the problem to be solved remains, I think one should hold steadfast and really push after that problem.”

On transitioning to a better global “new normal,” Rufino challenged the youth and said, “What’s more important than what you were doing, is really what will you do? What will you do starting today? What will you do tomorrow? Because our future actions will have to be much greater than the actions we have taken in the past.”

Asked if cities need to be urbanized to become sustainable, Arch. Palafox says that there should be a balance. “In our country, there should be more citizen participation. I believe, especially the youth, that we should be more participative.” He added, “To me, every line we draw, if we do a good job, we should think of the



beneficiaries. If we do a lousy job, let’s think of the sufferers.”

To encourage active participation among attendees, GYS held trivia quiz sessions as well as a social media contest wherein they were asked to share their key takeaways from the event using the hashtags #GYS2021 and #GYSTAKEAWAY. Over P50,000 worth of gift certificates, online vouchers, gadgets, and other prizes were given away to winners of these activities during the two-day event.

“It is my fervent prayer for those participating in this year’s Global Youth Summit that you may be inspired by our speakers and leaders, that you may find purpose as you dream big, create opportunity not only for yourself, but also for others, and that you remain to have the grit, to surpass all the challenges that you will find in your journey,” said Program Director for SM Cares Committee on Children and Youth Royston Cabunag during his welcoming remarks.

“We believe that moral and innovative leadership development needs to be stressed in the home, in the school, as well as the community, so that we can ensure that the leadership of tomorrow has the implements and the fortitude to

“What’s more important than what you were doing, is really what will you do? What will you do starting today? Because our future actions will have to be much greater than the actions we have taken in the past.”

—Architect and Urban Planner Filino “Jun” Palafox Jr.

deal, not just practically but also purposefully, with all that the ever-changing world is throwing at them,” said GPF Vice President for Operations Daniel Bessell.

“All over the world, young people are responding to present-day challenges with innovative approaches and fresh ideas,” said Resident Representative for United Nations Development Program-Philippines Selva Ramachandran. “We hope the GYS will continue to support and inspire more Filipino youth to do the same.”

This year's summit also recognized the second class of Five Global Youth Summit Outstanding Alumni “Safe Space Heroes” that received a total of Php250,000 to support their ongoing initiatives and projects that ensure children and youth have safe environments to gather, live, learn and work in.

This year's outstanding alumni are Eleazar Danila of JCI Regatta's Balangaw: Celebrating the Gift of Life of People with Special Needs, Ambriel Pascual of Karapatan at Kabataan Paligsahan ng mga Maikling Pelikula, Samuel Madriaga of Angat Kalusugan Operations (AKO) Initiative, Yanie Mirabueno of Grassroots Development Program and Atty. Edward Arriba of “Lakbayan” & Safe Spaces Caravan.

GYS 2021 had a total of 6,481 attendees on Zoom and On24, more than 14,000 views on Facebook and counting, and 343,049 people reached. It was also #10 among the top trending topics on Twitter in the Philippines during its run. Of the attendees, 68 percent came from the Philippines, 12 percent from the rest of Asia, 9 percent from North America, 7 percent from Africa, and 4 percent from Europe.

GYS, a recipient of the 2020 Gold Anvil Award, is an annual event that provides a platform for youth leaders to come together and come up with innovative solu-



GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT **OUTSTANDING ALUMNI**
“Safe Space Heroes”

				
ELEAZAR DANILA JCI Regatta's Balangaw: Celebrating the Gift of Life of People with Special Needs	AMBRIEL PASCUAL Karapatan at Kabataan Paligsahan ng mga Maikling Pelikula	SAMUEL MADRIAGA Angat Kalusugan Operations (AKO) Initiative	YANIE MIRABUENO Grassroots Development Program	EDWARD ARRIBA “LAKBAYAN” & SAFE SPACES CARAVAN

SM CARES | Global Peace Foundation PHILIPPINES | CONSUELO ZEBEL ALICIA FOUNDATION | CIE THE GARDEN SCHOOL BRITISH SCHOOL MANAY CEBU TECHNOLOGY | Rotary Club of Makati Circle of Friends | Nestle | Unilever | OFFICIAL TELCO PARTNER: Globe | THIS PROJECT SUPPORTS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

tions to many of the issues affecting them. It is a joint program partnership of SM Cares and the Global Peace Foundation Philippines.

Learn more by visiting [SM Cares Supermalls](#), [Global Youth Summit Facebook](#), and [Global Peace Foundation Philippines](#). ■