

## **THE SEARCH FOR THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANKIND: HOW SOUTH KOREA'S EXPERIENCE CAN BE USEFUL FOR UKRAINE**

In February 2019, approximately 1,200 participants gathered at the UPF World Summit in Seoul, South Korea, to discuss the issue of humanity's peaceful development. Among the participants there were 40 current and former heads of state from 110 nations. Guests were greeted by Dick Cheney, U.S. Vice President (2001–2009), and Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (1995–1999). Dr. Thomas Walsh, Chair of UPF International, congratulated the participants and set the tone of the conference. 'We can make history,' he said. 'Peace can only come when all social strata are involved, particularly the religious leaders. Billions of believers aspire to a world of peace.'

Two government ministers from Korea's Office of Foreign Affairs spoke about the possibility of Korean reunification. Hon. Myong Gyon Cho, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that both North and South Korea want to unify peacefully. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March 1 Movement, marking the independence movement and the establishment of the provisional government, is commemorated in both countries. 'Families remain separated due to ideological differences,' the minister said, while adding that 'there is a spirit of hope in the air that the peninsula will be reunified.'

Hon. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (1995–1999), praised Pope John Paul II and the religious leaders who contributed to changes in Moscow and said that 'religious Religious leaders have the power to change lives for the better and solve problems that politicians cannot.' Referring to talks with North Korea, he stated that 'we don't just want a denuclearized peninsula; we want religious liberty in all countries.'

Hon. Dick Cheney, Vice President of the United States (2001–2009), was introduced as 'a man who stands for peace.' The Vice President recalled his many visits to South Korea, when he served as secretary of defense and vice president. He confirmed that the U.S.-South Korean alliance, has endured because of 'our shared values.' He quoted Gen. Douglas MacArthur and President Dwight Eisenhower, who referred to the courage and sacrifice of the Korean people. He warned that Kim Jong Un's regime is 'highly skilled at extracting concessions in exchange for

nothing' and cautioned U.S. negotiators against 'repeating the failures of the past.' Mr Cheney said that 'we have to be open to the possibility' that Chairman Kim will take the denuclearization issue seriously'. 'The U.S. will honor its commitments,' he said. 'North Korea should not capitalize on our pledge to South Korea,' he said.

First Ladies Patricia Marroquín of Guatemala and Debbie Remengasau of Palau emphasized gender equality and the need for respect and love as the foundation for world peace. Hon. José Manuel Barroso, who served as President of the European Commission (2004–2014) and Prime Minister of Portugal (2002–2004), spoke about the important regional benefits of intergovernmental cooperation and non-governmental organizations.

H.E. Karim Khalili, Vice President of Afghanistan (2004–2014), thanked UPF for the opportunity to discuss peace, security and human development and for its emphasis on peaceful dialogue. Vice President Khalili described the situation in his homeland as follows: 'I am coming from a country that has been a victim of war in the past 40 years and still is.' He described the causes of conflict as radicalism, misinterpretation of religion, racism and sectarianism. 'Afghanistan is a victim of radicalism,' he said. The Vice President called for a new commitment to dialogue from everyone, at every level.

The next session was comprised of concurrent sessions of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) and the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD), which represent a multi-track approach to peace and conflict resolution. Hon. Jose de Venecia Jr., Former Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives and Co-Chair of IAPP, described how China is challenging the West and shifting 'global centre of gravity from the Atlantic to the Pacific.' Regarding the Korean Peninsula, Speaker de Venecia proposed a confederation between the two nations, similar to the model of Vietnam and Germany, with commercial flights, highways, and a common railway system for the two Koreas.

The representatives of many nations and various religions expressed their concern for the challenges facing our societies, particularly for the crisis affecting the Korean Peninsula today. At the same time, there was a profound sense of gratitude to UPF Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and to UPF for the spirit and programs that foster just and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the world.

On February 9, those willing took part in the International Conference on Peace in the Korean Peninsula, jointly sponsored by the newspapers *Segye Ilbo* and *Washington Times*.

Welcoming remarks were given by Mr Jung Hee-taeg, President and CEO of *Segye Ilbo*, and Mr Thomas P. McDevitt, Chair of The Washington Times. Mr Jung announced that the newspaper is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and noted the crucial role of media in the unification of the peninsula. 'The media are vital to fulfilling the Korean people's ultimate dream of a unified Korea,' he said. Once Korea is unified, 'the path of world peace that all humankind longs for will be opened widely.'

Mr McDevitt said, that ‘The media should be the conscience of society.’ He praised the relationship between South Korea and the United States. According to him, in the next 30 years, *Segye Ilbo* will play a key role in the unification of the peninsula and the region.

Hon. Lee Nak-yon, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, spoke about the relations between the ROK and North Korea since the 2018 Winter Olympic Games, held in Pyeongchang, South Korea. ‘Overcoming division on the Korean Peninsula also requires international support, he said.’ ‘The South Korean government will steadily and wisely make progress for the Korean Peninsula peace process with support from the international community, including the U.S., China, Japan and Russia.’

Ukraine is 7,000 kilometers (more than 4,000 miles) away from South Korea, and we have a different culture and language, but Ukrainian scholars see parallels in the histories of the two nations. Despite the fact that the history of each nation is unique, in the two countries there is a similarity in the rise and fall of global waves of civilization [1].

For example, as early as between 3500 BC and 2000 BC, throughout the Korean Peninsula saw the wide spread of pottery items, which subsequently spread into Mongolia, China’s Manchuria and Russia’s Primorsky Krai. This reminds Ukrainians of the age of the Trypillian culture of the fourth to the third millennia BC, which existed in the area from Ukraine’s Precarpathian region to the Dnipro River [2].

Korea was divided into south and north 74 years ago by the secret agreement between the United States and the USSR (the legal successor of which is the Russian Federation). Subsequently, in 1948 two states were established, and the Korean War consolidated the split of the country. The situation is very similar to the conflict in Ukraine’s Donbas region, but nobody gave consent to a foreign country to control part of our territory. The experience of Korea proves that when it is not possible to resolve the conflict situation immediately and it comes to the emergence of a new state recognized in the world, the unification of a country can take dozens of years. And now Korea attracts the global experience of civic organizations, government members, religious figures, and the media to unite the country.

In our opinion, the fact that South Korea is much more developed than North Korea plays an important role in the prospect of unification of the countries. The Republic of Korea has shown an upward trend in population growth, while also transforming from an agrarian country to an industrial power.

South Korea’s economy grew by 3.1 percent in 2018. This is the maximum growth rate of three years, as the Bank of Korea’s final figures show. Investments in the construction industry of South Korea in 2017, against the backdrop of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, jumped 7.6 percent, while labor resources

rose by 14.6 percent (a record rise for seven years). Consumer spending increased by 2.6 percent (the most significant increase over six years). The increase in exports, which accounts for about half of the country's GDP, amounted to 1.9 percent. Imports grew by 7 percent.

In 2017, GDP per capita in South Korea grew by 7.5 percent and reached \$29,745. According to experts, this indicator will for the first time exceed \$30,000 in 2018. In the world now there are only nine countries with a population of more than 20 million people where GDP per capita exceeds this level. In 2018, GDP growth amounted to 2.7 percent. South Korea is ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 50 countries with high population growth rates.

Korea is paying a lot of attention to national demographics. If in 1960 the population in South Korea was 25 million, then by 2015 it was more than 53 million. (The territory of Ukraine is 7 times larger than the territory of Korea.) The average life expectancy is 81 years (77.5 years for men, 84.5 years for women). The employment opportunities for such a large population are provided by industrial production.

Korea is putting a lot of effort into educating the population. From my own experience of frequent visits to South Korea, I noticed that the culture of the nation has become a state policy. I have never seen such a 'holy' attitude to teaching children in any other country in the world. The state has invested heavily in developing the capacity of its citizens. Due to the emphasis on human resources, it becomes clear why South Korea has made significant progress in science and technology.

What lessons can we learn from the Korean experience? It is that the development of human potential contributes to scientific and technological development, and, consequently, to the economic growth of the country. The second lesson is that a market economy encourages private business to invest in development of technologies. [3]

Ukraine needs to take a sober look at its situation and understand at which level we are. For some reason, with the growing patriotic sentiment in the country, the flow of migrant workers to the European Union has increased, as has the educational migration. It remains unknown how many of the 37,000 Ukrainians studying abroad will return to their homeland. Why do 55 percent of young people intend to leave Ukraine? According to forecasts, by 2050 the population of Ukraine will decrease to 32 million. [4]

Historically, Ukraine has always been a peace-loving nation, but at the same time Ukrainians were able to protect their culture, territory and families. We are now protecting our country with weapons in our hands, but it is important not to forget to properly educate our children so that they become honest and decent people with a big and grateful heart, that they remain true to the ideals and become patriots of their country, love their homeland and respect Ukrainian heritage to gladly assume the task of building a new Ukraine after finishing their studies abroad.