
Press Release

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[Catholic Diocese of Uijeongbu] 2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum

“DMZ to Hiroshima:

The Role of American, Korean, and Japanese Religion for Peace in Northeast Asia”

- Takes place in Paju, Korea, and Hiroshima, Japan from October 25th-29th.
- The 7th International Peace Conference of CINAP since 2017
- Commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and seeks the role of the Catholic Church and how we can contribute to the new perspectives and approaches for peace on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia
- Presentations and discussions by foreign experts from the United States, Japan, Germany, Ireland, and more as well as Korean scholars
- Dialogue of peace between American, Korean, and Japanese bishops and the younger generation are also planned

The Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People and the Catholic Institute of Northeast Asia Peace (CINAP, Directed by Father Ju-seok Kang) is hosting the 2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum, the 7th International Conference, from Wednesday, October 25th to Sunday, 29th., 2023 at the Church of Repentance and Atonement in Paju and

Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral.

- **Date:** Wednesday, October 25th – Sunday, 29th., 2023
- **Venue:** Church of Repentance and Atonement in Paju (111, Seongdong-ro, Tanhyeon-myeon, Paju-si, Gyeonggi-do), Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral
- **Theme:** DMZ to Hiroshima: The Role of American, Korean, and Japanese Religion for Peace in Northeast Asia
- **Expected Attendance:** About 80 participants
- **Co-host:** Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People, Catholic Institute of Northeast Asia Peace
- **Sponsor:** Gyeonggi-do, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Since 2017, the Catholic Institute of Northeast Asia Peace (CINAP) has been hosting international conferences. Due to the Russian-Ukrainian war last year and heightened tensions in the Northeast Asia region, the role of religion in building peace is increasingly becoming more important. We are seeking ways to leverage the global Catholic network to cooperate more closely. Accordingly, the CINAP co-hosted the 2022 International Peace Conference together with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea's Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People (CBCK CRKP) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on International Justice and Peace (USCCB CIJP). This year's Forum will further expand the network, with bishops from Korea, the United States, and Japan as well as leading scholars, a visit to the DMZ area, and a peace pilgrimage to Hiroshima, Japan. The participants of this Forum have been working for the peace movement for a long time, especially to build and promote peace in the Northeast Asia region.

Objectives of the 2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum

- ① To strengthen the solidarity between the U.S., Korea, and Japan's Bishops'

Conference to promote peace in Northeast Asia

- ② To seek the role of religion and civil society in de-escalating military tensions on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia where the climate crisis is imminent.
- ③ To promote understanding of the Korean Peninsula's denuclearization and the Catholic Church's peacebuilding role in achieving the above ① and ②

Distinctive features of the 2023 event: “Field Visit & Youth (Now) Programs”

- ① A linear field visit from DMZ to Hiroshima after Conference 1 in Korea
- ② The U.S., Korea, Japan's bishops' joint visit to the Joint Security Area (JSA), the symbolic place of the 70th anniversary of the Armistice
- ③ Programs designed for American, Korean, and Japanese youth.

Distinguished Speakers and Guests from Abroad

- Archbishop John C. Wester (Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, U.S.)
- Bishop David J. Malloy (Committee on International Justice and Peace, USCCB)
- Bishop Richard Pates (Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, U.S.)
- Bishop William Shawn McKnight (Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri, U.S.)
- Archbishop Emeritus Mitsuaki Takami (Archdiocese of Nagasaki)
- Bishop Taiji Katsuya (Diocese of Sapporo, CBCJ Episcopal Commission for Social Issues)
- Bishop Shirahama Mitsuru (Diocese of Hiroshima)
- Father Ichiro Mitsunobu, S.J. (CBCJ Episcopal Commission for Social Issues)
- Professor Okawa Chihiro (Kanagawa University)
- Professor George A. Lopez (Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies)
- Professor Gerard F. Powers (Coordinator, Catholic Peacebuilding Network)
- Professor Jude Lal Fernando (Trinity College Dublin)

- James Heenan (United Nations Human Rights Office)
- Jennifer Joy Telfer (Peace Catalyst International)

Peace Declaration: Calligraphy for Peace Exhibition

As the opening event for the 2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum, a calligraphy for peace exhibition that artistically sublimates the purpose of the peace conference will be held. Along with Catholic priests, both former and current Korean government officials, journalists, and scholars who have been striving for peace in Northeast Asia, participated to express their idea of peace in calligraphy. The exhibition will showcase 24 works presented by 8 calligraphers.

- **Exhibition duration:** Wednesday, October 25th - Thursday, November 30th, 2023
- **Opening Ceremony:** 15:00 on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023
- **Venue:** Peace Pilgrim's Gallery, The Peace & Unity Center in Paju
- List of Participated Calligraphers (Total of 8)
 - Priests of Diocese of Uijeongbu including Father Man-ok Han, Seung-hoon Jeong, Deouk-hee Nahm, and Hyun-woo Doh
 - Ho Suh, Former Vice Minister of Ministry of Unification
 - Sung-dong Yang, Former President of KBS
 - Yul Sohn, President of East Asia Institute, Professor at Yonsei University
 - Dong-cheon Lee, Calligraphy Master, Art Appraiser

[Attachment] Poster



2023 가톨릭한반도평화포럼
Catholic Korea Peace Forum 2023

The Role of American, Korean, and Japanese Religion for Peace in Northeast Asia

- DMZ to HIROSHIMA -

2023. **October 25** (Wed) - **29** (Sun)

Paju, Korea
25th (Wed) 15:00 Pre-event_Calligraphy for Peace Exhibition
• Peace Pilgrim's Gallery, Peace & Unity Center
26th (Thurs) 9:30-17:00 Conference 1 • Church of Repentance and Atonement
27th (Fri) Mass for Peace in the Korean Peninsula • JSA Church

Hiroshima, Japan
28th (Sat) 10:00 Peace Pilgrimage • Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
14:00~17:30 Conference 2 • Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral
19:00 Dialogue of Peace_American, Korean, and Japanese
younger generation, "Now" • Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral
29th (Sun) Closing Mass • Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral

Co-hosted by / Sponsor /

 한국천주교주교회의 민족화해위원회
Committee for the reconciliation of the Korean people

 가톨릭동북아평화연구소
CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF NORTHEAST ASIA PEACE

 문화체육관광부
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

 경기도
GYEONGGI-DO

Contact us at cinap.conference@gmail.com

[Attachment] Schedule for 2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10/25 (Wed)	15:00	Pre-event: Calligraphy for Peace Exhibition	Peace Pilgrim's Gallery, Peace & Unity Center
	18:00	Welcome Reception	Peace & Unity Center
	19:00	Welcome Dinner	
10/26 (Thurs)	All day	Conference 1	Church of Repentance and Atonement
	19:30	Book talk: <i>Peacebuilding</i> with Professor Gerard Powers	Basement Hall, Peace & Unity Center
10/27 (Fri)	08:00	Lecture: On the 70 th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice	Basement Hall, Peace & Unity Center
	09:00	Peace Pilgrimage to DMZ border area & Mas	JSA Church
	16:00	Departure to Japan	Incheon Airport
10/28 (Sat)	10:00	Peace Pilgrimage	Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
	14:00	Conference 2	LaSalle's Center, Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral
	19:00	NOW Program	
10/29 (Sun)	11:00	Wrap-up Meeting of Bishops of the U.S., Korea, and Japan with other participants	Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral
	21:00	Departure to Korea	Fukuoka Airport