



2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum Program

(As of October 18, 2023)

1 Objectives and Background

- ◆ 2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum: “**DMZ to HIROSHIMA**”
– The Role of American, Korean, and Japanese Religion for Peace in Northeast Asia –
- ◆ **Date and Venue:** October 25 (Wednesday) - 29 (Sunday), 2023 Paju, Korea, and Hiroshima, Japan
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Objectives**
 - 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 above ① and ②

◆ **Background**

The Korean War, with the 70th anniversary of the armistice in 2023, has not officially ended yet and is one of the main causes of conflict that threatens not only the Korean Peninsula but also Northeast Asia and world peace. The first-ever summit between the U.S. and North Korea in 2018 raised hopes for a peaceful resolution of the Korean Peninsula issue, but the second summit between the U.S. and North Korea broke down in February 2019, and the dialogue between the U.S., South Korea, and North Korea lost momentum. Since the global pandemic of COVID-19 in early 2020, North Korea has been more isolated, and on top of that the imposed economic sanctions due to North Korea's nuclear weapons development and the infectious diseases have seriously threatened the survival of the people in North Korea.



‘The No-Deal Hanoi Summit’ has worsened not only the relations between the U.S. and North Korea but also inter-Korea relations. North Korea openly expressed its distrust in the South Korean authorities. The inter-Korean exchanges were completely stalled, and military tensions on the Korean Peninsula, where dialogue was suspended, rose again in 2022. Furthermore, with the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, the arms race in Northeast Asia has accelerated. North Korea's ongoing missile tests and the firm stance of the Yoon Administration against North Korea's provocation have been raising fears of armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

To explore the role of the church for peace on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on International Justice and Peace (USCCB CIJP) and the Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace have actively participated in the international conference of the Catholic Institute of Northeast Asia Peace (CINAP), which has been held every year since 2017. Cardinal Robert Walter McElroy (Bishop of San Diego) and Bishop Matsuura Goro (松浦悟郎, Bishop of Nagoya) participated in the international conference held in December 2017, when the war crisis was heightened, and in the international conference of 2019, chairman of the Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace, Bishop Katsuya Taiji(勝谷太治, Bishop of Sapporo) participated.

In October 2022, the international conference was held in Washington, D.C. to strengthen the solidarity of the U.S.-Korea bishops' Conference. The "2022 Catholic Korea Peace Forum" was co-hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea's Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People (CBCK CRKP), the USCCB CIJP, and the CINAP. Many scholars who studied the peace issues on the Korean Peninsula, as well as government officials, attended the Forum. Participants reaffirmed the necessity and possibility of international cooperation between religious and civil society to resolve the Korean Peninsula issues peacefully through the Forum. During the official visit to the U.S. Department of State and Congress, the U.S. bishops introduced South Korean bishops as 'brother bishops' and exchanged views on the church's position on inter-Korean relations and the creative and humanitarian aid to North Koreans. This was one of the Forum's most important achievements in discussing the ongoing meeting of bishops for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Global cooperation is desperately needed to overcome the climate crisis, but the current situation in Northeast Asia shows the epitome of a "security dilemma." While the vicious cycle



of the arms race is adding more to military tension and the overall crisis, the CINAP and CBCK CRKP aim to co-host the Catholic Korea Peace Forum in October 2023. We hope for stronger solidarity of the bishops' Conference of the United States, South Korea, and Japan at a time when efforts for peace are more urgent than ever.

2 Distinctive features of the 2023 event: “Field Visit & Youth 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

3 Proposed Topics for Discussion

1. Efforts of the U.S., Japan, and Korea’s Catholic Church and the Vatican to advance peace on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement of the Korean War
2. The North Korean nuclear crisis, the dangers of an arms race in Northeast Asia, and the efforts toward anti-nuclear proliferation and peacebuilding.
3. Environmental issues such as the climate crisis (North Korea's food shortage is also linked to this issue.)
4. Prospects of young people on peace issues on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia



4 Participants List

	Affiliation	Name and Title	Note
American Bishops	Archbishop of Santa Fe	Archbishop John C. Wester	Virtual Attendance
	Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace	Bishop David J. Malloy	
	Apostolic Administrator of Archdiocese of Dubuque	Bishop Richard Pates	
	Bishop of Jefferson City	Bishop William Shawn McKnight	
Japanese Bishops	Bishop of Hiroshima	Bishop Alexis Shirahama Mitsuru	
	Bishop of Sapporo, CBCJ Episcopal Commission for Social Issues	Bishop Bernard Taiji Katsuya (勝谷太治)	
	Archbishop of Nagasaki	Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Mitsuaki Takami	
Korean Bishops	Co-chair of the Commission on Faith and Order of Korean Churches	Archbishop Hyginus Hee-joong Kim	
	Bishop of Uijeongbu, Chairman of the Special Episcopal Commission for the Reconciliation of the Korean People of the CBCK	Bishop Peter Ki-heon Lee	
	Bishop of Incheon	Bishop John Baptist Shin-chul Jung	
	Bishop of Chuncheon, Apostolic Administrator of Hamhung, Chairman of the Committee of the Reconciliation of the Korean People of the CBCK	Bishop Simon Ju-young Kim	
	Abbot of Benedictine Waegwan Abbey, Apostolic Administrator of the Territorial Abbacy of Tokwon	Abbot Blasio Hyun-dong Park	
American Participants	USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace	Ms. Virginia Farris	
	Coordinator, Catholic Peacebuilding Network	Professor Gerard F. Powers	
	Professor Emeritus of Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies	Professor George A. Lopez	
	Georgetown University	Professor Min-ah Cho	
		Ms. Jenna Pae	



	George Washington University	Mr. Hayden Smith	
	Peace Catalyst International	Ms. Jennifer Joy Telfer	
Japanese Participants	CBCJ Episcopal Commission for Social Issues	Fr. Ichiro Mitsunobu, S.J.	
	Executive Committee member, Peace Boat /International Steering Group member, ICAN	Akira Kawasaki	Virtual Attendance
	Taiwan Foreign Ministry Invited Visiting Scholar at Academia Sinica	Professor Yuko Nagasawa	
	Kanagawa University	Professor Okawa Chihiro	
	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Dr. Tsuruhara Toshiyasu	
	Nagoya University	Dr. Xiaoyang Hao	
	Japanese young people		
Irish Participant	Trinity College Dublin (University of Dublin)	Professor Jude Lal Fernando	
Korean Participants	University of North Korean Studies	Professor Sung-Kyung Kim	
	Chung-Ang University	Professor Hye-Jung Lee	
	Director, PEACEMOMO TEPI(Trans-Education for Peace Institute)	Professor Francis Daehoon Lee	
	Manager, Center for Peace and Disarmament & Center for International Solidarity People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)	Ms. Sooyoung Hwang	
	Sungkonghoe University	Professor Hyo-Je Cho	
	Korea Environment Institute, Senior Researcher	Mr. Jang-Min Choo	
	Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Green Transformation, Hanshin University	Professor Sang-Heon Lee	
	Director, Peace Sharing Institute of the Committee of the Reconciliation of the Korean People, Archdiocese of Seoul, Former Minister of Ministry of Unification	Professor Yong-Pyo Hong	



Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Professor Emilia Heo	
Peace and Theology	Dr. Gyeong-il Jeong	
Research Center for Goryeo People at Jeonbuk National University	Professor Gyu-Su Lee	
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill Generalate	General Superior Sister Jane Ann Cherubin	
	Sister Sung Hae Kim	
Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Sister Hye Jung Oh	
Secretary General, The Korean Council of Religious Leaders	Mr. Duk-chang Yang	
CBCK Commission for the Reconciliation of the Korean People	Father Peter Ju-seok Kang	
	Advisors and staffs	
Committee of the Reconciliation of the Korean People, Archdiocese of Seoul	Father Ignatius Soo Yong Jung	
Committee of the Reconciliation of the Korean People, Diocese of Uijeongbu	Staffs	
Catholic Institute of Northeast Asia Peace	Staffs and Researchers	
	Professor Jang-Hyun Paik	
Gyeonggi Province	Governor Kim Dong-yeon	
Chargé d'Affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in Korea	Monsignor Fernando Reis	
United Nations Human Rights Office	Mr. James Heenan	
	Ms. Eleanor Fernandez	
Representative of Hanns Seidel Foundation in Korea	Mr. Bernhard Seliger	
Acting nuncio to the Republic of Korea, Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See	Msgr. Fernando Reis	
Diocese of Jeonju	Father Kyu-hyun Moon	
Experts and NGO Officials on issues related to the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia		
Korean young people		
Press		



5 Detailed Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10/24 (Tues) & 10/25 (Wed)		Arrival of Guests from Abroad	Incheon Airport (ICN)
10/25 (Wed)	15:00	Pre-event: Calligraphy for Peace Exhibition	Peace Pilgrim's Gallery, Peace & Unity Center in Paju
	18:00	Welcome Reception & Dinner	Dining Hall, Peace & Unity Center
Day 1 10/26 (Thurs)	07:00	Morning Mass (Celebrated by Bishop Ju-young Kim)	Basement Hall, Peace & Unity Center
	08:00	Breakfast	Dining Hall, Peace & Unity Center
	09:00	Tea Talk	Peace & Unity Center CINAP Office
	09:30-17:00	Conference 1	Church of Repentance and Atonement
	18:00	Dinner	Dining Hall, Peace & Unity Center
	19:30	Book talk: <i>Peacebuilding</i> with Professor Gerard Powers	Basement Hall, Peace & Unity Center
Day 2 10/27 (Fri)	07:00	Breakfast	Dining Hall, Peace & Unity Center
	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 & Mass for peace (Celebrated by Bishop Ki-heon Lee)	JSA Church
	16:00	Departure to Japan (Jeju Air 7C1406)	Incheon Airport (ICN)
	23:30	Arrival at Hiroshima by bus	Hiroshima Hotel (Daiwa Roynet & Dormy Inn)
Day 3 10/28 (Sat)	07:00	Breakfast	
	09:00	Mass (Celebrated by Bishop Richard Pates)	Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral




	10:00	Peace Pilgrimage	Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
	11:30	Lunch (Buffet)	Ana Crown Hotel
	14:00-17:30	Conference 2	Lassalle's Center, Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral
	17:30	Dinner	
	19:00-21:30	Program	
Day 4 10/29 (Sun)	07:00	Breakfast	Hiroshima Hotel (Daiwa Roynet & Dormy Inn)
	09:30	Mass (Celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus Mitsuaki Takami)	Hiroshima World Peace Memorial Cathedral
	11:00	Wrap-up Meeting (Bishops of the U.S., Korea, and Japan with other participants)	
	14:00-18:00	Depart Hiroshima, Arrival at Fukuoka Airport by bus	Fukuoka Airport
	21:00-22:35	Departure to Korea (Korean Air KE782)	Incheon Airport

- ❖ The overall cost of the Forum, including flight tickets and accommodation for overseas participants, will be covered by CINAP, which has secured the budget of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Korea





6 Conference Agenda

 October 26 (Thursday) Conference 1 Paju, Korea	
Seeking a Way to Co-exist by Overcoming the Arms Race (Moderator: Sung-kyung Kim)	
Time	Opening Session
09:30 - 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bishop Peter Ki-heon Lee (Uijeongbu Diocese) ● Congratulatory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governor Dong-yeon Kim (Gyeonggi Province) ● Congratulatory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monsignor Fernando Reis (Chargé d'Affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in Korea) ● Congratulatory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bishop David J. Malloy (Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace) ● Congratulatory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bishop Taiji Katsuya (Sapporo Diocese)
Time	Session 1: Threat of Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Race (Moderator: Jang-hyun Paik)
10:00 - 12:00	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “A Madhouse of War: Arms Race and Threats of Nuclear War on the Korean Peninsula” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Professor Hye-jung Lee (Political Science and International Relations, Chung-Ang University) ● “Is a World Without Nuclear Weapons Possible?”(Virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Akira Kawasaki (Executive Committee member, Peace boat) (Virtual) ● “The Road to Nuclear Disarmament: Building Relationships for a Movement”(Virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Archbishop John Charles Wester (Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico) <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Ms. Soo-young Hwang (Manager, Center for Peace and Disarmament & Center for International Solidarity, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)) ➢ Professor Chihiro Okawa (Kanagawa University) ➢ Professor Yuko Nagasawa (Taiwan Foreign Ministry Invited Visiting Scholar, Academia Sinica)



12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
Time	Session 2: Climate Crisis and Human Rights (Peace) on the Korean Peninsula (Moderator: Hyo-je Cho)
13:00 - 15:00	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Climate Crisis in North Korea and Green Détente on the Korean Peninsula” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Jang-min Choo (Senior Researcher, Korea Environment Institute) ● “The Nuclear-phase out and Energy Transition” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Sang-heon Lee (Director of Institute of Green Transformation/Hanshin University) ● “Economic Sanctions Repurposed for Peace, Denuclearization, and Human Rights” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor George Lopez (University of Notre Dame Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Professor Emeritus of Peace Studies) <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bernhard Seliger (Resident representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea Office) ▪ Mr. James Heenan (Office Representative, United Nations Human Rights Office) ▪ Abbot Blasio Hyun-dong Park (Benedictine Waegwan Abbey, Apostolic Administrator of the Territorial Abbacy of Tokwon)
15:00 - 15:10	Coffee & Tea Break
Time	Roundtable: Peace of Northeast Asia and the Church (Moderator: Yong-pyo Hong)
15:10 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bishop Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama (Bishop of Hiroshima) ▪ Bishop Simon Ju-young Kim (Chair of the Committee of the Reconciliation of the Korean People of the CBCK) ▪ Gerard F. Powers (Coordinator, Catholic Peacebuilding Network) ▪ Professor Jude Lal Fernando (Trinity College Dublin (University of Dublin)) ▪ Sister Hye-jung Oh (Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help) ▪ Ms. Jennifer Joy Telfer (Peace Catalyst International)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wrap-up: Bishop Simon Ju-young Kim
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 20 minutes are assigned for Speakers and 10 minutes for Discussants. ❖ For the roundtable discussion, each panel speaks for about 5 minutes on the subject and then the Moderator leads the discussion; the questionnaire will be shared in advance. 	



 October 28 (Saturday) Conference 2		Hiroshima, Japan
“Collective memory, conflict narratives, and peace education” (Moderator: Emilia Heo)		
Time	Opening Session	
14:00 - 14:30	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming Remarks by Bishop Alexis Shirahama Mitsuru - Congratulatory Remarks by Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Mitsuaki Takami 	
Session 1: Dialogues with Scholars from China, Japan, and Korea		
14:30 - 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What Happens When a Contested Historical Issue Is Absent from School Education: Diving into the Popular Perception of Comfort Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Dr. Xiaoyang Hao (Nagoya University) ● Relational Transformation through Dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Dr. Tsuruhara Toshiyasu (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University) ● Learning Peace with the "Enemies": A Pedagogical Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Dr. Emilia S. Heo (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University) <p>Q & A (15 minutes)</p>	
15:30 - 16:00	Break time (Survey questionnaire to be circulated)	
Session 2: Conflict Resolution Workshop		
16:00 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self-introduction of participants ● Introducing the Workshop ● Workshop in small groups (Youth group) ● Wrap-up: share thoughts all together <p>(*No recording or filming is allowed during the entire session.) (English will be used)</p>	
 Now Program		October 27 (Friday) – 29 (Sunday)
Peace Pilgrimage: Field visit and various youth programs		
October 28 (Saturday) Afternoon Program		
14:00 ~ 17:00	Conference 2 (See above for details)	
October 28 (Saturday) Evening Program		
19:00 ~ 19:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Screening session : Sharing Peace Message <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Short video showing of Youth Peace Festival & Vlogs ➢ Peace Message from young people to bishops of the United States, Japan, and Korea 	
19:30 ~ 21:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interactive session : Dialogue between Youth and Bishops/Scholars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Opportunity for youth to ask questions rooted in their personal narratives ➢ Suggesting innovative peacebuilding approaches to the bishops 	