
*C*losing Ceremony Speeches



SPEECH OF GRATITUDE

Dr. Sunggon Kim
Former ACRP Secretary General

Dear Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
We are now about to close our ACRP 8th Assembly. I am very happy and certain that this Assembly was a successful one. Don't you agree?

First of all, I congratulate Rev. Hatakeyama as the New Secretary General, Dr. Din Syamsuddin for his re-elections and Ven. Ja Seung our Co-Moderators. I am sure they will lead ACRP more wisely and more successfully fulfilling what I could not do due to my limited ability. And I am very honored to be elected as one of the Honorary Presidents of ACRP. Even though I move one step aside from the executive position, as a honorary president I will do my best to assists you.

The success of this assembly was possible because of “unity and harmony” among ACRP leaders and our diligent and dedicated secretariat and volunteers. To all of you, I am most grateful. In particular, our sincerest gratitude to the following:

First, I really appreciate all the delegates and observers for their arduous participation throughout the whole session. Please give a big hand for all of us.

Secondly, I appreciate all the leaders of ACRP: the Moderator, Co-President, EC members and all the secretaries, especially Rev. Taesung Kim and Mr. Bong Baybado for their skillful management and organization of our assembly. Please give a big hand for them.

Thirdly, I must express great thanks to the Korean Government and the Korean Conference of Religions for Peace for providing funds, excellent staffs healthy foods, and beautiful cultural performances with warm hospitalities. Thanks to Incheon City Mayor for providing good facility and cultural performance. Give them big hands please.

Fourthly, I am very grateful to all the young volunteers for their devotional service in every corner during the Assembly. One more big hands please.

Since I was elected as ACRP secretary general 12 years ago, I was very happy. It is like a beautiful pilgrimage. I really appreciate everybody for assisting me while I worked as secretary general, especially Rev. Niwano and Dr. Din Syamsuddin.

Now, I am 62 years old. But I have 3 daughters and 8 years old boy. I hope to see my children, and also your children and grand children live in a more peaceful society in the future. How do we make such a society? The primary answer is in education. Thus, from now on I will devote myself in peace education especially for young leaders so that they will be enlightened to Truth and will live in Harmony and Unity. Seoul Peace Education Center, which I am in charge of as a chairman, is one of the places I will work.

I have learned also that Korean Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP) is preparing to host the next World Assembly of Religions for Peace (WCRP). The hosting of the WCRP assembly is not just good news for Korea but good news for the whole Asia. So I expect the moral and material assistance from all the chapters of ACRP and we will have another chance to invite all of you again after 4 years in Korea. Hope to see you again in Korea in 2018.

Thank you again and have a nice Trip back home: von-voyage, Sayorana Chaijien.



ACRP THE MEDIATOR FOR PEACE

Dr. M. Din Syamsuddin

ACRP Co-Moderator

“**B**ismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim”
Distinguished esteemed religious leaders of Asia, participants of the 8th ACRP Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, *Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.*

First of all, I would like to give my sincerest gratitude to the entire family of ACRP for the endless struggle and hard work to establish peace through religion in our region. Today, we are facing new challenges in the world; this is a kind of paradox. On the hand, Asia is seen by many as the continent for the 21st Century. It is because of the shift of economic gravity from the Atlantic to the Pacific region and there are also signs and facts of prosperity in our region, in particular East Asia. On the other hand, we have been witnessing the deficit of peace not only in Asia but also in the world with the emergence of the so-called “accumulative global damage.” The term indicates that peace has both positive and negative senses. Therefore, it is our task and responsibility in the future is to intensify and accelerate our collective efforts and works through our respective religions to establish peace in its positive notion.

Dear friends, sisters and brothers in peace, I am going to touch upon this issue to direct your attention that the challenges before us are not easy. As a Muslim, there are two perspectives relating to my position in the leadership of the organization.

Firstly, the position could be seen as an honor and a blessing. Secondly, more than an honor and a blessing, it is a responsibility.

However, I do realize that our organization, our ACRP is a collective movement, where each one contributes and participates. And the dynamic and progress of an organization of depend very much on the dynamism and progress of all the national chapters. ACRP, as a continental body in Asia, must take the position of mediator to keep balance and harmony in Asia. It should also serve as the motivator and advocate through the works of the National Chapters in delivering the messages of peace to the various parts of the region.

In behalf of the entire ACRP family and all the Assembly participants, I thank the host country the Government of South Korea, the host chapter Korean Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP), Dr. Sunggon Kim, the former secretary general and his staff Rev. Kim Taesung and other members of the secretariat for making our Assembly a great success.

I congratulate Rev. Hatakeyama, the new secretary general, my co-moderator, Ven. Ja Seung, the Co-Presidents and Honorary Presidents. We have the responsibility to lead the organization. I hope that ACRP will become the most important organization that

can play a decisive and significant role in guiding and developing Asia to the right path towards “unity and harmony.”

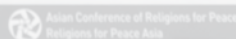
In closing, I ask your help, support and prayer for all of us so that we can faithfully perform our responsibility as leaders of ACRP.

Kamsahamnida.



Unity and Harmony in Asia

The 8th General Assembly of Asian Conference of Religions for Peace



SPEECH OF HOPE: ACRP NOW AND BEYOND

Rev. Yoshitaka Hatakeyama
New Secretary General
Asian Conference of Religions for Peace

It is a great honor for me to be elected as the ACRP secretary general succeeding Dr. Sunggon Kim. I will serve for the next five (5) years until the next Assembly.

I would like to give my sincerest gratitude to Dr. Sunggon Kim for his exceptional dedication as the ACRP secretary general for the past two terms, spanning more than 10 years. I also thank all the staff member of ACRP Seoul secretariat, without their dedication and service, it would have been impossible to have a successful ACRP Assembly. In fact, up to this day, the staff and members of the secretariat are still busy supporting the daily activities of the assembly. I would like to express my gratitude for their untiring effort. I also would like to convey my sincerest appreciation to Dr Jin-hyun Byung, secretary general of the Korean Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP) and other executive members of the Seoul office for their service over so many years.

Dr. Sunggon Kim has served as ACRP secretary general for more than a decade but also fulfilling his responsibility as a member of the South Korean national assembly. I imagine his extraordinary efforts, which is beyond description. As the deputy secretary general of ACRP, I visited Seoul many times to meet Dr. Kim and consult with him. Even when I visited him during the session of the Korean National Assembly, he will come to me so kindly, and spend with me so many long hours discussing the operation of ACRP.

The ACRP was founded in 1976 as a charter of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP). For the past 30 years, members of ACRP have worked hard to realize the founders' aspirations, which is to combine the efforts of Asian religious leaders to address the issues and problems of our region. Over the years, the WCRP has evolved into a global organization comprising six (6) regional committees. I firmly believe that the mission of ACRP, the oldest of the six (6) regional committees, is to contribute peace and harmony to people's lives in the Asia Pacific region. I also believe that by fulfilling this mission, which is to create unity and harmony in Asia, we can show our gratitude to the founders of ACRP.

Before long, ACRP secretariat office will be relocated from Seoul to Tokyo.

In conclusion, I would like to pledge that I will work hard to develop ACRP further together with our honorable co-moderators Ven. Ja Seung and Dr Syamsuddin, the members of the Governing Board, Executive Committee and all the members of ACRP.

May I request your generous support and cooperation.

Thank you very much.