

Remarks by Secretary-General  
International Conference - Commemorating the Centennial  
Anniversary of the March 1st Movement  
(March 1st, 2019)

Your Eminences, Excellences, distinguished leaders and guests from all quarters, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

On behalf of Religions for Peace Asia, I would like to express my deep respect to the Korea Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP) for hosting an International Conference - Commemorating the Centennial Anniversary of the March 1st Movement.

I am honored to be invited to this important, historical seminar with the title of "Religion and Peace for Another 100 years."

First and most importantly, I, as a Japanese, personally want to express my apology from the bottom of my heart to all Koreans in the past, present and future generations, for the long-year Japanese colonial rule which hurt and victimized so many people in your country in modern history. The colonial rule is a symbol of human right violation, oppression, discrimination, and the denial of the dignity of all forms of life, I believe.

As one of the leaders in ACRP, I am convinced that we should learn the value and role of the non-violent movement against all sorts of oppression, discrimination, violation, and the denial of the fundamental human right, including the equal dignity of all beings. The March 1st Movement demonstrated it, and thus the movement became a historical and symbolic force for the liberation movement.

Furthermore, I deeply respect the role model and achievement of the March 1st Movement in fostering interreligious dialogue towards harmony and unity, transcending differences in religion and doctrine, as well as providing the spiritual foundation for harmony and unity in two Koreas, and world peace.

I do hope we people of religions can make religions a tool for peace, not for

division, by our continuing efforts for promoting interreligious dialogue and cooperation with the motto of "different faiths, common action."

Thank you very much, all the leaders and members of KCRP for providing the world with this very crucial and vital opportunity of learning the message of God and Buddha to humanity, namely, the harmonious coexistence of all peoples in Asia and world by non-violent, compassionate actions.