

## LC2021 Asia Pacific, August 20: Session VII – Role of Media in Korean Reunification

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**Asia Pacific** -- The seventh session of the August 19-20 International Leadership Conference 2021 (ILC2021) for UPF's Asia Pacific region, convened on August 20, was themed, "Toward Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula: The Role of Media." Four speakers from the United States, Thailand, the Philippines, India and Kyrgyzstan shared their experiences and insights on how media representatives can contribute to Korean reunification.

A total of 268 people watched the event live on Zoom while hundreds did so through various social media platforms.

**Mr. Thomas McDevitt**, *chairman of the Washington Times, USA*, gave the opening remarks.

A speaker from the Philippines, **Mr. Barbie Atienza**, *head of external affairs of the Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation, Philippines*, said the media has three important roles: to inform, to inspire and to empower people.

Another notable speaker, **Mr. Vasilii Fokin**, *president of Eurasia New Media, Kyrgyzstan*, said, "I salute the efforts of Dr. Hak Jan Moon in unifying [the] Korean [Peninsula] within peace-building worldwide, especially during the Olympics." Mr. Fokin shared that he is aware that Pyeongchang County, the site of the 2018 Winter Olympics is in Gangwon Province, where Olympic facilities of Dr. Moon are located. He continued, saying, "The recent increase in sports exchanges between the Republic of Korea and Democratic Republic of Korea offer a unique opportunity to analyze the changing role and efficacy of contemporary sports diplomacy."

The two other speakers were **Mr. Chanchai Pratheepwatanawong**, *chief reporter of The Nation, Thailand*, and **Mr. Padma Sri Alok Mehta**, *former president of the Editors Guild of India*.

**Dr. Robert Kittel**, *senior adviser of UPF-Asia Pacific and coordinator of the International Media Association for Peace (IMAP)-Asia Pacific*, served as the moderator.