

UPF Sri Lanka's Peace Road 2017 in Vavuniya District - Together for Peace

Lt. S. Sarrajh
September 9, 2017



As Sri Lanka came across the experience of massive internal conflict for three decades, after the government forces' success in finishing this conflict in 2009, Government & Non-Governmental Organizations had been striving hard to promote peace and reconciliation throughout the country so that no more destruction and losses will take place in the future.

Since peace prevailed in Sri Lanka, it has to move forward towards a sustainable National Development leaving behind that dark era. In this way the concept of "Peace Road" in the quest for peace is timely and ideal for the Sri Lankan scenario. UPF Sri Lanka had taken a step to promote sustainable peace, through "Peace Road 2017" under the Global Theme "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All." This was organized on 9th of September 2017 at Vavuniya District in Sri Lanka to create awareness of Global Peace.

Vavuniya District is situated in Northern Province of Sri Lanka, where people from 3 main religions, namely Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism live in harmony. Vavuniya was also considered as the last city with normalcy during the conflict for government as well as for the terrorists. This is the reason UPF Sri Lanka choose to organize the Peace Road -2017 in Vavuniya District on September 9, 2017.

After an opening ceremony, which was held at Muslim Maha Vidyalayam (National School), Peace Road Rally went up to Saivaprakasa Ladies College which is situated in the middle of Vavuniya Town. There were more than 200 bike riders and walking participants who enthusiastically joined the peace road rally even though it rained heavily. This was led by Vanni District Parliamentarian Hon. K.K. Masthan. After a one-minute silence the prayers were offered by Religious Leaders according to Buddhist, Hindu and Islam religions respectively. It was followed by a welcome speech of Lt .S. Sarrajh, Northern Province Coordinator of UPF Sri Lanka. The project was introduced by Dr.Chula Senaratne, Secretary General, UPF Sri Lanka. A Peace Message was delivered by Hon. K.K. Masthan, M.P and the Peace Declaration was delivered by Hon. A.N. Sivasakthy Ananthan, M.P. of Vanni District. Blessing for Peace and Unity of Sri Lanka was delivered by Additional Government Agent Mr. Thireskumar and District Secretariat Mr. Paranthaman.



The large number of participants representing all the religions was not discouraged by the heavy rain which fell on and off throughout the rally. They enjoyed the rain as a blessing for their commitment. The participants received the certificates of appreciation at the end of the rally and everybody was happy to successfully complete the "Peace Road 2017".

This project was jointly organized by the Government of Sri Lanka, Universal Peace Federation, U.N., Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) and Youth Federation for World Peace(YFWP)

This is absolutely another stepping stone of UPF Sri Lanka showing Sri Lankan effort to support the worldwide campaign to have an International Peace Highway which was the dream of True Parents, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han.

During the event, Religious Leaders from Buddhism, Hindu and Islam offered their prayers and blessings for Peace Road 2017.

Dr. Chula Senaratne, Secretary-General of UPF-Sri Lanka introducing the purpose of Peace Road campaign. From Right to Left: Hon. A.N. Sivasakthy Ananthan, M.P., Hon. K.K. Masthan, M.P., and Government Agent Mr. Thireskumar and District Secretariat Mr. Paranthaman.

Amidst heavy rain, Members of Parliament, Government Leaders, Religious Leaders, UPF Officials and the youth in Sri Lanka joining together the Peace Road in support of the International Highway Project.

Members of Parliament, Government Leaders, Religious Leaders, UPF Officials and the schools in Sri Lanka joining together the Peace Road in support of the International Highway Project even under heavy rain.

Also Dr. Chula, UPF-Sri Lanka Secretary-General and Lt. S. Sarrajh, Project Coordinator Certificates, Distributed the certificate of Ambassador's for peace to those who joined even though they are still wet due to heavy rain.

150 Members of Parliament, Government Leaders, Religious Leaders, UPF Officials and the youth in Sri Lanka joining together the Peace Road project in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka in support of the International Highway Project.