

“Eurasia & Europe: Cooperating for a Culture of Peace & Human Development”

Munich, Germany, 10. January 2013

This was the title of the European Leadership Conference of the Universal Peace Federation in Paris on 3. and 4. December on the occasion of the declaration of UNESCO’s “Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures” in August 2013.

Because Rev. Moon had emphasized still in his lifetime the importance of Eurasia as a bridge between East and West, as a potential peacemaker, the Munich UPF wanted to follow this topic and dedicated its January event to the Republic of Udmurtia, located in the Russian Federation Province Wolga.

The Udmurtian participant at the Paris conference, Ms Tatiana Slesareva, student of ethnology at the Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich introduced her homeland with vivid pictures and short video clips.

With pride she reported about the mythology, her people that belongs to the fino-ugrian ethnic community, the nature and landscapes and the culture of Udmurtia. Nearly no one had ever heard before about this country. Russia is not just the land of the Russians, but the home of many other peoples that struggle for recognition and self-determination and even for their cultural survival.



After that Mrs. Tian Zaotschnaja from the North-East Russian republic of Kamtschatka introduced to us the “Society for Threatened Peoples”, whose coordinator she is in the Munich region. She shared with us the history and work of that NGO, which has like UPF also the consultative status at the ECOSOC of the UN. The Munich section of the SFTP mainly takes care of threatened peoples in the Russian Federation. Both ladies were appointed as Ambassadors for Peace by UPF for their outstanding efforts for lasting peace in our world.

Finally Mr. Oivind Haugen, UPF, and Ms. Slesareva, who had participated as representatives of Munich, reported about the conference in Paris. Well-known speakers such as Dr. Federico Mayor, former Director of UNESCO (1987-1999), Leonid Kravchuk, President of Ukraine 1992-1994, Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali (Videomessage), Secretary of UN (1992-1997) and Margareta Timofti, First Lady of Moldova had participated and presented their views and ideas for peace in the region; especially the mention the efforts of Tajikistan. The whole meeting was preceded by a wonderful prepared breakfast.

