

Rally of Hope Philippines Report



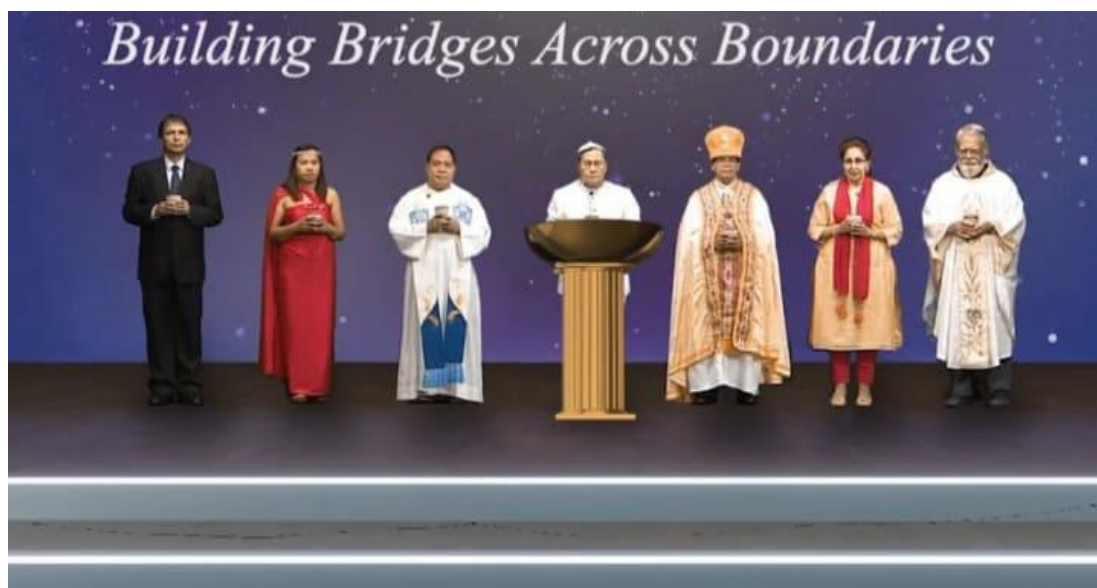
Our world is in crisis. We are battling a contagious and deadly virus. We're desperate for solutions. The economic impact is devastating and our road to recovery seems long and uncertain. Intolerance among races and classes grips our global community as people demand justice and equality. In addition, humanity has abused Mother Nature and both suffering because of it.

To generate hope in these dark times, the Universal Peace Federation initiated an online event called "Rally of Hope Philippines," held February 6, 2021. The theme was, "One Million People Praying for the Healing of the Nation and the World." This historic event was telecast live on PTV 4, which is the national government TV channel of the Philippines. It was also simultaneously live-streamed on various social media platforms and broadcast by numerous radio and cable TV stations in different parts of the nation.

This rally was a global platform for international and Filipino dignitaries to amplify their collective voices in humility and prayer beseeching heaven's intervention during this time of unprecedented challenges. Centered on the Philippines, this event brought together people from different corners of the world in an online interfaith gathering to collectively pray for the healing

of the world from the COVID-19 pandemic, the recovery of Mother Earth, and the restoration from social divisions that are ripping apart our human family.

The Rally of Hope Philippines began with the commemoration of the United Nation's World Interfaith Harmony Week. An interfaith prayer was offered by leaders of different faiths, including: **Archbishop Danilo Santualla** from the Holy Eastern Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church, **Rev. Fr. Edgardo De Jesus** from the Roman Catholic Church, **Msgr. Isagani Fabito** from the Philippine Independent Church, **Dr. Shakuntala Vaswani** from Hinduism, **Chieftain Eleonor Atencio** from Indigenous People - Pangulo ng Taleduan Katutubong Dumagat, **Dr. Rahim Mirshahi** from Iran representing Islam, and **Archbishop Elias T. Soria** from the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification who led the Universal Prayer for Peace.





Through the years, UPF has been steadfast in providing education and outreach in a peaceful pursuit towards nation-building. We have a strong interreligious component, numerous youth empowerment activities and programs for family education. We have been working to provide avenues for people of diverse faiths, race and nationalities to contribute their wisdom and work effectively alongside representatives of government, business and civil society to building a world of lasting peace.

Before this event, UPF also joined in various gatherings celebrating the UN's World Interfaith Week. One of these was the opening of the Mother of Peace Center of Spirituality, a Roman Catholic Church located at Don Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan. Religious leaders of different faiths joined the celebration and signed the Resolution of the Rally of Hope Philippines event. **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** commended the resolution of this rally that called for strengthening character education for youth and building stable loving families.



One of the highlights of the Rally of Hope was the True Love in Action Project. Inspired by UPF's Founder, **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** who sent a substantial donation to support communities which were affected by recent typhoons. UPF and its partners went around the nation to distribute relief materials to many families from these communities. Working together with the Philippine government an online donation campaign was also launched to provide more support for the most severely affected families.

Many participants who joined the online event were sincerely moved by the message from **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon**, known lovingly as the Mother of Peace. People felt tremendously inspired by her personal testimony coming from her upbringing in war-torn Korea, particularly regarding her personal relationship with God, who she calls our Heavenly Parent.

Keynote speeches from world leaders included: the former Prime Minister of Fiji, **H.E. Sitivenie Ligamamada Rabuka**, and the Speaker of the House of the Assembly of the Republic of Kiribati, **Hon. Tanagariki Reete Tekiaa**. Leaders of the Philippine government who gave special messages, included: Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Hon. Lord Alan Velasco**; the 5-time Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.**; the Secretary of the Presidential Communication Operations Office, **Secretary Martin Andanar**; and a Senator from the Senate of the Philippines, **Hon. Senator Bong Go**. A message of **H.E. Rodrigo Duterte**, President of the Philippines, was also read during the program and recognized the work of UPF.

World-class entertainment from top Philippine artists could be enjoyed throughout the event as well as messages of hope and inspiration from youth leaders, front-line workers, and social media personalities.

What made the event more significant and noteworthy were the partnerships forged with the different government agencies and civil society. There were 136 partners who signed Memorandums of Understanding, including with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Youth Commission. All endorsed the Rally of Hope and offered to support the event on the national level.