

New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes



Join Us in Saving the Planet Earth!

Kim Young-Ho | Co-President

Mankind must cope with an unprecedented crisis. This crisis is a critical crisis of all lives including mankind living on the planet Earth. Mankind has unlimited responsibility for this crisis because present geologic era is called Anthropocene which means the environment of the Earth is dominated by mankind. Three international agreements, Climate Change Convention and Biodiversity Convention and Agreement on Prevention of Desertification, have been proposed to overcome this global crisis. But three international agreements have substantial weaknesses.

The weakness of Biodiversity Convention is based on the fact that the plants and forests are regarded only as resources, and life value of all the living organisms is neglected. The Climate Change Convention was adopted as an international agreement recently. But the new President of USA is threatening to abolish the agreement. The Agreement on Prevention of Desertification is discussed only on local level. **In a new geologic era when mankind is called Anthropocene, it is absolutely necessary for mankind to transform three international agreements into the life-concept for the reconstruction of Earth-community.**

The nuclear contaminations from the Fukushima and Chernobyl disasters are well known to wreak havoc on both natural and manmade borders. Radioactive contamination is a serious problem because there is no artificial or scientific solution to it.

The New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes is an organization comprised of activists who work in academia, the press, and religious communities. These activists have worked for environmental protection, denuclearization, and human rights over the past ten years in South Korea. These activists organized seminars, held demonstrations, and walked a total of 1,075 km while raising awareness for the dignity of life and denuclearization since 2015. Amidst these efforts, the members realized that the cooperation of neighboring countries is integral in achieving true denuclearization and thus decided to partake in an international movement.

The core members of the New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes held numerous meetings and seminars from 2016 to January, 2017 to share views and decided upon forming an international organization. They have also agreed upon a pilgrimage that will start on 3 May 2017 in Seoul and conclude on 4 April 2019 in the Vatican City for worldwide proliferation of the dignity of life and anti-nuclear movement. The pilgrimage will encompass 26 countries over 720 days and for a total distance of 11,000 km.

During the pilgrimage, the organized team in Seoul where the desirable tradition of peaceful relationship between religions is well-known, plans various programs such as seminars, religious rituals to ameliorate the pain of the victims of nuclear accidents. In addition, the team debates, and the declaration of the “Universal Charter of Life” are planned as well. After the conclusion of this journey, the organization plans to form an international organization that will overwatch and urge the denuclearization of all nations. Through these efforts, universal values that humans should strive for such as peace, mercy, humanity, environmental protection, and equality will manifest in the context of the 4th industrial revolution. We hope for a nuke-free world which can be reached through the participation of the leaders and citizens of the international community in which the dignity of life of all forms is respected. We hope that you as well as your friends and family will join us in our efforts.



Congratulation for launching the Working Committee for the New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes!

Park Won-soon | Seoul City Mayor

Now is the time when we, ourselves, need to bring about changes. Our priority must be safety not nuclear energy. I personally demanded the stop of the construction of new NPPs and the operation of existing NPPs at the International Energy Conference for Nuclear Free and Safe Society and Sustainable Future in Seoul on November 1, 2016. In order to make safe and clean energy available to us, we need solidarity and cooperation of active citizens. I was able to witness the power of united citizens during my Seoul City campaign to reduce one nuclear power plant which started in April 2012. Citizens successfully reduced the need for a nuclear power plant by conserving energy at home and directly producing solar energy through sun light. Let us change from dangerous energy to safe energy, from unhealthy energy to healthy energy. Let us build solitary and cooperate beyond state borders. The 11,000 km long road that you will walk on will connect cities and build solidarity and cooperation between citizens of the world. To all of you who have committed to opening the new road to secure the safe and clean future for our children, I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are the energy for sustainable future!

*An excerpt from the congratulatory speech delivered at the Inaugural Meeting of the Working Committee of the New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes on November 21, 2016.



Switch off the nuclear power now!

Richard MERGNER (BUND, Germany)

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Professor Hurbert Wieger and me, Richard Mergner, we send warmest regards from Germany to your conference. We support the idea and concept of the New Silk Road for No-Nuke and Life of the South Korean young new movement. For ethical, religious, and economic reasons, the world must stop the use of the deadly and uneconomic nuclear energy. Therefore, we built up a giant alliance for nuclear power phase out during the last years. And we continue to strengthen this cooperation between South Korea and Germany.

I, myself, was in South Korea and Fukushima several times. And I was personally able to experience terrible consequences of the nuclear catastrophe. In addition to the contamination of some environment that continues hundreds and thousands of years and the immense economic damage, there are also social tragedies that take place there. In the Fukushima region, more than half a million of people are effected by either causations. Most of all elderly and low income people and farmers are coming back to their country sheer for emotional reasons. And are exposing themselves to the health hazards even though they know about their harmfulness.

From the lessons learned in Chernobyl and Fukushima, we at Friends of the Earth in Germany with more than half a million members and supporters have promoted the exit from nuclear and fossil fuel energies in the industrial country of Germany. We promote energy safety and renewable energies, not only because they are environmental friendly but also because renewable energies are decentralized energy supply systems which means that energy supply is transformed into democratic structures. Monopolistic structures are to be abolished.

We will support the project and the pilgrimage on its way through Germany. Civil societies and the followers of all religions around the world should support this pilgrimage. I wish the conference and the campaign all the best. Switch off the nuclear power now!





<p>25 Italy 2019. 03.09 ~ 04.16 (38) Milan, Bologna Florence</p> <p>26 Vatican 2019. 04.19 ~ 04.21 (3) Vatican</p> <p>23 Liechtenstein 2019. 02.21 ~ 02.22 (2) Baduz</p> <p>24 Swiss 2019. 02.23 ~ 03. 08 (14) Chur</p>	<p>21 Czech 2019. 01.18 ~ 01.24 (7) Ceske Budejovice</p> <p>22 Germany 2019. 01.25 ~ 02.18 (25) Munich</p> <p>20 Austria 2019. 01.07 ~ 01.17 (11) 2019. 02.19 ~ 02.20 (2) Wien</p>	<p>18 Hungary 2018. 12.14 ~ 12.31 (18) Budapest</p> <p>19 Slovakia 2019. 01.01 ~ 01.06 (6) Bratislava</p>	<p>15 Bulgaria 2018. 10.08 ~ 10.20 (13) Varna</p> <p>16 Romania 2018. 10.21 ~ 11.13 (24) Bucharest</p>	<p>14 Turkey 2018. 10.01 ~ 10.07 (7) Istanbul</p> <p>17 Serbia 2018. 11.14 ~ 12.13 (30) Belgrade</p>	<p>11 Iran 2018. 06.20 ~ 07.18 (29) Teheran</p> <p>12 Azerbaijan 2018. 07.19 ~ 09.06 (50) Baku</p>	<p>13 Georgia 2018. 09.07 ~ 09.30 (23) Tbilisi, Poti</p>	<p>10 Nepal 2018. 01.19 ~ 02.20 (43) Kathmandu, Lumbini</p>	<p>9 India 2017. 12.01 ~ 2018. 01.18 (49) Kolkata, Bodh Gaya 2018. 02.21 ~ 05.12 (77) New Delhi, Chandigarh Dharmshala</p>	<p>8 Myanmar 2017. 10.25 ~ 11. 20 (27) Yangon</p>	<p>7 Thailand 2017. 09.14 ~ 10.24 (41) Sukhothai</p>	<p>6 Laos 2017. 08.21 ~ 09.13 (25) Vientiane</p>	<p>5 Vietnam 2017. 07.29 ~ 08. 20 (23) Hanoi, Vinh</p>	<p>4 Hong Kong / Macau 2017.07.24 ~ 07.27 (4)</p>	<p>3 Taiwan 2017. 06.30 ~ 07.23 (24) Taipei, Taichung Kaohsiung</p>	<p>2 Japan 2017. 06.03 ~ 06.29 (27) Hiroshima, Kita Kyushu, Fukuoka, Nagasaki</p>	<p>1 South Korea 2017. 05.03 ~ 05.30 (28) Seoul, Daejeon, Daegu, Gori NPP, Busan</p>
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Professor LEE WONYOUNG says "Let's make an international organization of religious communities to monitor the NPPs in the world"

On June 2011, immediately after the explosion of the nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Dr. LEE WONYOUNG, professor of Suwon University (Department of Urban Planning and Real Estate Development) went to Germany to witness the very center of the international No-Nukes movement. During his visit of the city on the way to nuclear free society, a grand cathedral caught his eyes, leading him to think how good and effective it will be if the Vatican joins in this movement towards the nuclear free world. Returning from Germany, he founded "Professors' Association for No-Nukes" and played a leading role in the movement toward nuclear free society in South Korea. In the process, he encountered many questions and eventually he found the answers to those questions. But, there is always one question that cannot be solved in his mind: "What if the explosion of a nuclear power plant happens in China even though our society is nuclear free?" With time passing the blueprint for solving that question was made, and he showed it when I met him on 17 December 2016.

"None of 446 nuclear power plants all over the world is absolutely safe from earthquakes and terrorist attacks. UN has been helpless in that matter. The power of environmental organization and citizens' association is different from country to country. Thus, a new international organization to intervene in each government's way is required. The power from the religious world can give an answer. Global religious communities, united together, should watch and control the nuclear power plants until we reach the nuclear free world."

Professor LEE will go on a pilgrimage on Buddha's Birthday, 3 May 2017, for the establishment of a new international organization. This project is named as the 'New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes.' Professor LEE planned it and took charge of its preparation. For two years, with various religious communities and those who desire nuclear free society he will walk to the Vatican through Japan and India. They will cross over the sea by ship or plane. The distance they will go on foot reaches to 11,000 km. Their pilgrimage will end on the Easter, 21 April 2019. On the pilgrimage, they will discuss about the dignity of life and nuclear free society and mourn for those who has been killed by the accidents of nuclear power plants with all the citizens of the world whom they meet on the roads of pilgrimage. They also plan to perform a ritual in the places of life destruction.

The highlight of this pilgrimage lies in the meetings of religious leaders. The pilgrims will have an interview with Dalai-Lama in Dharamsala, India as well as with Papa Francisco in the Vatican. They will also contact some religious leaders of Islamic countries. They will deliver the message that No-Nukes society must be reached and require them of participating in the establishment of international organization for the nuclear free world. Professor LEE said, "whether you believe in Jesus Christ or Buddha, you share the value of respect for life and recognition of the danger of nuclear power."



Photo of Dr. LEE WONYOUNG

What does religion mean for Professor LEE, a Buddhist? "Religion should basically function as a vessel to put in people's desire. That's why religion cannot but be most sensitive to the security of life and set out most actively to solve this problem," he said. However, by now it is questionable as to the possibility of founding an international organization with religious communities as leaders. With this question in mind, the preparation team for the pilgrimage is now drawing up the "Universal Charter of Life," which declares to the world the principle that nuclear power plants are incompatible with life. It will be officially declared on the starting day of the pilgrimage after the international conference to draft the Charter in April 2017 in Seoul. The pilgrims will deliver the Charter to religious leaders they meet on their way to the Vatican.

The planning of this project, in some sense, was possible due to his being ousted from professorship at Suwon University. Professor LEE is one of the professors who were dismissed for their criticism of the president and the university foundation in suspicion of violating the private educational institution law. Since 2014, he walked 1,500 km crying for 'nuclear-free society.' During this time, the framework of this project has been made. Even though the highest court gave a decision that his dismissal should be nullified, he is still outside of the university since the university denied his reemployment. He said, "the encouragement from religious communities has inspired me to further efforts during my absence from school." Thus, he thought, "All right! Let's walk to the Vatican and, on the way, let's meet with religious leaders as many as possible to persuade them to take a step forward for making the nuclear-free world."

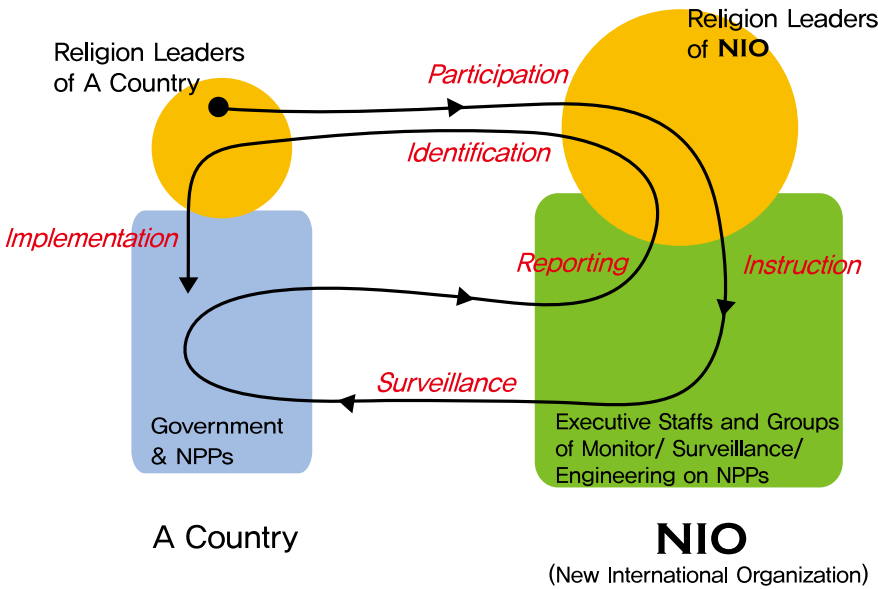
Professor LEE is forming the '100 person-committee for the New Silk Road' and is now informing people of this project through the internet café (<http://cafe.daum.net/earthlifesilkroad>). Soon, he will open the English and Korean websites to communicate with prospect pilgrims at home and abroad and stream on-line every step of the pilgrims' movements. The preparatory committee for the New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes will officially launch on 2 pm, 21 December 2016 at the Korean Press Center in Seoul.

<KOH Youngdeuk.godo@kyunghyang.com>

Expected Results of the Pilgrimage Walk

1. Global Action for the Sanctity of Life : Ratify and proclaimate the Universal Charter of Life
2. Globalization of the No-Nukes Movement : Promote Ethics of Life in the World with Religious Leaders
3. Create a new international organization :
 - Set up a regime to monitor NPPs worldwide
 - Set up a road map for no-nuke/switch to alternative energy/shut down NPPs
 - Ratify the Charter of Life and Implement
4. Guide major countries to go no-nuke including China: South Korea-Japan-Taiwan-Hong Kong would take initiative
5. Transform the Consciousness of the Humanity
 - Raise awareness of and realize peace, mercy and love
 - Reaffirm the universal values the humanity must uphold

Working Structure of NIO (New International Organization)



Milestones

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| Nov. 2011 | Founding of the Professors' Association for No-Nukes |
| March 2012 | Founding of the Buddhist Life Ethics Association |
| July 2012 | Sign an MOU with BUND, Germany |
| March 2013 | Founding of the Environmental Decommissioning Engineering Nuclear Safety (EDENS) and organizing an inaugural conference |
| June 2013 | Pilgrimage Walks for No-Nukes starts by Prof. SONG Wongi (Gangwon National Univ.) and Protest against the Samcheok NPP |
| Nov. 2014 | Citizens' March for the Closure of the Gori No. 1 NPP led by Prof. KIM Haechang (Gyeongseong Univ.) |
| 2013-2016 | Prof. LEE (Suwon Univ.) starts No-Nukes Pilgrimage Walks Campaign |
| Oct. 2015 | Mr. KIM Gwangchul starts Weekly No-Nukes Pilgrimage Walks in Seoul |
| May 2016 | Publication of the Report on the NPP Safety Forums |
| Nov. 2016 | Inaugural Meeting of the Working Committee |



How to join

Become a member of the New Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes!

Please join us in paving the new Silk Road for Life and No-Nukes.

You can participate on any day or in any section of the 11,000 km long pilgrimage walks in 26 countries for 720 days. Let's walk to build solidarity and cooperation for nuclear free, safe and sustainable future! Visit the homepage for the detail daily itineraries and sign up to participate in the pilgrimage walks or join to become a supporter. If you are interested, please email Dr. Lee to the address below.

Korean Homepage : cafe.daum.net/earthlifesilkroad

English Homepage : liferoad.org

If you would like to support us financially, please send your donation to
Shinhan Bank 110-310-889298 (Account Name: LEE WON YOUNG)

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