In celebration of the 29th anniversary of the UN International Day of Peace.

Under the theme of “The Body and Civilization: A New Horizon,” the participants discussed on the topics of peace and alternative global civilizations

This international conference was organized to seek a way to break away from alienation, environmental destruction, poverty, and famine through rediscovering our own body. For three days from November 3 to 5, the “2010 Peace BAR Festival” was held at Seoul campus and keynote speakers, discussants, and participants all said that, “Only by holding together hand in hand, face to face, heart to heart, and body to body, will the true history of love and peace unfold.”
Peace BAR Festival is held every year to seek new universal values and to promote peaceful human civilizations from diverse disciplines such as philosophy, science, fine arts, and other areas of studies. This forum consisted of three events—“International Conference,” “Forum for Future Civilizations,” and “Kyung Hee Youth Forum.” On November 4, the event under the theme of “The Body and Civilization: A New Horizon” was held at Grand Peace Hall, and the participants included many great Korean and international scholars, specialists, members of civil organizations, university students, and ordinary citizens.

At the opening ceremony, Yong Il Kong (Director of Global Academy for Future Civilizations) stated that, “What I have accomplished the most while preparing for this international forum is that through the discourse of the body, the subject of our very being, it’s going to open new possibilities to communicate and unite, breaking down the barriers between different disciplines.” He thus emphasized the significance of the conference. President Inwon Choue stated in his welcoming address that, “The body that communicates opens possibilities for new civilizations. I hope this international conference will further expand Kyung Hee University’s tradition in the future.” He wished for a very successful conference adding that, “Discussion of the trans-disciplinary endeavor of the body and civilization which will go beyond closed thinking and exclusion will echo in everybody’s heart.”

The keynote speakers, Professors Mark Johnson (University of Oregon), Tu Weiming (Peking University), Richard Shusterman (Florida Atlantic University), Hubert Dreyfus (University of California, Berkeley), Anne Harrington (Harvard University), and the world renowned scholars presented their papers on the topics of “The Body and Philosophy,” “The Body and Culture,” and “The Body and the Arts.” After the keynote speeches, the discussants Professors Chong Hwan Oh (Seoul National University), Choong Hwan Chun (Kyung Hee University), and many others engaged in discussions to examine a living organism of the small body and the universe community of the big body and to explore new possibilities for humans via rediscovering the significance of the body.

A round table discussion under the theme of “The Body and Our Lives” followed the keynote speeches. The keynote speakers, President Inwon Choue, and the round table participants discussed a new paradigm for creating a peaceful civilization.

In commemoration of the “International Day of Peace” established by the UN in 1981, Kyung Hee University has been holding international conferences to celebrate the “International Day of Peace” since 1982. This year marks the 29th anniversary since its inception. This program, carrying on tradition and history of Kyung Hee University, aimed to create a world that is “beautiful in the mind, materially affluent, and meaningful life.” It provided a stage for citizens of the world who dreamed of the world community to share and collaborate.
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