



University for Peace Universidad para la Paz



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PRESS RELEASE

Flag of Republic of Korea raised in UPEACE'S

The Rodrigo Carazo Odio Campus of the University for Peace (UPEACE) received the visit of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Taemyon Kwon, for a ceremonial raising of Korea's national flag in UPEACE's "Garden of Nations".

The Republic of Korea has become the first country in nine years to sign the International Agreement for the Establishment of UPEACE. The signature ceremony took place at the United Nations in New York on 11 June 2010. Signatory countries to this agreement are entitled to display their flags at the UPEACE "Garden of Nations," and UPEACE displays these flags on ceremonial occasions.

"We express our appreciation for Korea's leadership role in deciding to sign the International Agreement. We value this enormously, since it reflects Korea's interest in our institution and what it stands for. We hope that other countries which have not already signed the Agreement will follow Korea's example. Our relationship with Korea is very important and this flag-raising ceremony is a reflection of that," said John J. Maresca, Rector of the University for Peace. Currently, UPEACE offers a dual degree programme in cooperation with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), in Seoul, and is developing plans for a UPEACE Asia Pacific Center (UPAPC) in Korea.

The Ambassador thanked Rector Maresca and the UPEACE community, saying, "Thank you very much for your invitation to our Embassy for this meaningful ceremony. Peace is threatened these days in many countries in the world, including the Korean Peninsula, and also in this beautiful country of Costa Rica. We regret this, and are sorry to see these threats to peace in the world. We at the Embassy appreciate very much that bilateral relations between Korea and UPEACE have been strengthened, and that we have Korean students here at UPEACE."

The Ambassador also referred to the recent naming of the main UPEACE campus in honor of Rodrigo Carazo: "The University has named its main campus in honor of Rodrigo Carazo, the former president of Costa Rica. This was especially touching for me, since Carazo was a good friend of Korea, and visited Korea more than ten times."

UPEACE's activities include: teaching, research, distance learning, and outreach. The University for Peace system includes offices in Addis Ababa, Geneva, Manila and New York



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and partnership agreements with numerous other institutions worldwide. The Costa Rica campus serves as a laboratory for the UPEACE system in curriculum development and face-to-face-teaching programmes.

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