

Dr Young Seek Choue

Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Promoting Gandhian Values outside India-1997

Dr Young is a passionate preacher and promoter of International Peace and Understanding. For the last four decades and more he has personally played a remarkable role through his teachings, his researches, his lectures, his campaigns, his rallies, his concerts, commemoration ceremonies and in a host of other forms for the realization of a peaceful international society.

In the later part of 1970s when US-Soviet tension was at its extreme, many political and military leaders and experts predicted that a nuclear third world war, which would destroy all mankind, would be inevitable by the middle of 1980s. It was felt that the only choice for mankind to opt for would be to finish the unavoidable World War III with minimum casualties in the shortest period. Dr Chouse was convinced that there was no such thing as war with minimum casualties, and, considering the quality of nuclear weapons held by the USSR and the US, the destruction of human society seemed to be an imminent reality.

Dr Chouse was at that time President of the International Association of University Presidents and at the 6th Triennial Conference held in July 1981 he delivered a keynote address titled “The Great Imperative : Peace is more Precious than Triumph”. The encouraging response spurred Dr Chouse to visit several countries for discussions with heads of States and Ambassadors and he drafted a resolution for the “International Day and Year of peace” which was voted without discussion on 30th November 1981.

Dr Chouse had several discussions with the Secretary-General of UN. When President Reagan was stressing “Strong America” with military strength to face the Soviet Challenge, Dr Chouse persuaded President Reagan that he should abandon “Strong America Policy” and adopt “Great America Policy” because the United States must be evaluated as the one nation that could make the world democratic, peaceful and prosperous. As a result the six years' Cold War Era collapsed in 1985 and Geneva Summit meeting of the big was held during the critical world atmosphere and to explore every possible way for world peace.

Dr Young also took the following steps in the direction of preparing and working for world harmony.

1. He urged that the major role of the Red Cross movement was the prevention of war and stressed the “Second Red Cross Movement“ exerting its activities to humanize wars.
2. He proposed a Resolution on Anti-terrorism in 1984 when the 7th Triennial Conference of the IAUP was held and as a result terrorism in Libya considerably diminished.
3. Against the loud celebrations of the victory of the USA in the Gulf war in 1990, he tried for the adoption of the “Pax UN Policy” and not a “Pax American” policy.
4. He played a significant role for the formation of Regional Cooperation Society Regional Common Society like the European Union leaving chauvinistic nationalism behind.
5. When Dr Chouse prepared to establish the Graduate Institute of Peace Studies in 1983, he was surprised to find that there was no encyclopedia of peace which was required in the use of peace education. He took a decision to publish “World Encyclopedia of Peace” in commemoration of UN International Year of Peace.

Many people practiced that there would be permanent world peace all over the world when the US and the Soviet Union agreed to end the Cold War Era but the hope was not fulfilled and conflicts, crimes against humanity continued. Dr Chouse felt that there was a need to start the Second Renaissance Movement to overcome the limitation and adverse effects of contemporary materialistic civilization such as absence of humanity and alienation by blind technological development and to build a new human society in which mankind can enjoy a materially affluent, spiritually beautiful and humanly rewarding life.

Efforts for the realization of the Second Renaissance Movement have continued for the last 16 years. Discussions with several important leaders and statesmen were undertaken. Great leaders and elderly statesmen were also invited to participate and global campaigns and world lectures were also planned. Conferences were held successfully with active participation of many world community scholars and University Presidents. The Conference was also very meaningfully established because it was held at the same period of commemorative, cultural festivals for Confucius who is the “Saint of Morality”. Dr Choue proposed the Qufu Declaration for establishing Ethics and Morality in the 21st Century which was unanimously adopted at the Conference. It was unanimously adopted at the UN.

Dr Choue also considered that the UN Non-governmental organizations (NGO)) should play an important part together with the Governments of the concerned countries in a democratic society. This was also recognized by the Secretary General of the United Nations and it has been agreed that the “the Seoul NGO Conference on Reconstruction of Morality and Restoration of Humanity “be held in Seoul with all the NGO members of the UN in June 1998.

At the present time when the 20th century is about to end, Dr Choue attempts to reflect on human history over 5000 years and where have we have failed or erred. Based on this analysis, he is formulating a new plan for human society that he hopes will improve the quality of humanistic human life.

Honours and Awards

Apart from Dr Choue having presided over and participated in most of the important Conferences, Seminars, etc. on world peace, he has also been honoured with numerous Awards which include the Medal of Honour. The Great World Academic Award, the Medal of Honour from the President of the Red Cross. The Dag Hammarskjold Award in Cultural Merit, UN Special Award of Meritorious Services on Peace from the Secretary general in 1996, and a Man Hae Peace Award from the Associating for Enhancing Man Hae's Spirit, Seoul, Korea.

