

Special
Edition

The PCI News



2017 Individual Building Bridges Award

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary General



Ban Ki-moon will be honored with PCI's individual Building Bridges Award for 2017 at its annual award dinner on February 23. He was Secretary General of the United Nations from January 2007 to December 31, 2016. He was responsible for several major reforms on peacekeeping and UN employment practices, including increasing the role of women in the UN. For many years, the UN faced serious challenges in its efforts to

promote gender equality globally, including inadequate funding and no single recognized driver to direct UN activities. At Ban's initiative, in July 2010, the UN General Assembly created "UN Women" to coordinate gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Member states undertook to coordinate resources and fund mandates for greater impact.

Ban also displayed particularly strong views on climate change, pressing the issue repeatedly with the UN member countries, saying, "For my generation, coming of age at the height of the Cold War, fear of nuclear winter seemed the leading existential threat on the horizon. But the danger posed by war to all humanity—and to our planet—is at least matched by climate change"

In 2016, Foreign Policy magazine named Ban one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers for his achievement in making the Paris Agreement on climate change a legally binding treaty less than a year after it was adopted. The language of the Agreement was negotiated by representatives of 195 countries and adopted by consensus on December 12, 2015. It was opened for signature on April 22, 2016 (Earth Day) at a ceremony in New York. As of December 2016, 194 UN members have signed the treaty, 128 of which have ratified it. After several European Union states ratified the Agreement in October 2016, there were enough countries that had ratified the Agreement, producing enough of the world's greenhouse gases, and it went into effect on November 4, 2016.

Paris celebrated the Agreement by illuminating the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe in green.

A strong supporter of LGBT rights globally, Ban also conceived and carried out the World Humanitarian Summit, held in May 2016 in Istanbul, to develop a system that was more global, accountable, and robust by sharing knowledge and establishing common best practices among the wide spectrum of organizations involved in humanitarian action. The Summit convened

9000 participants from 173 countries, including 55 Heads of Government, hundreds of private sector representatives, and thousands of people from civil society and nongovernmental organizations.

Ban was born in a small farming village in North Chungcheong Province in Korea and grew up in the nearby town of Chungju. When he was six, his family fled to a remote mountainside for much of the Korean War. In school Ban became a star student. In 1962, he won an English-language essay contest sponsored by the Red Cross and earned a trip to the United States where he lived in San Francisco with a host family for several months. As part of the trip, Ban met U.S. President John F. Kennedy. When a journalist at the meeting asked Ban what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said, "I want to become a diplomat."

After receiving a bachelor's degree in international relations from Seoul National University in 1970, Ban received the top score on Korea's foreign service exam and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served in India, as ambassador to Austria and Slovenia and had several assignments to Washington, D.C. as well as postings associated with the UN – to the Permanent Observer Mission before South Korea joined the UN, Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and chief of staff to the President of the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In 2004 Ban became the Republic of Korea's foreign minister under President Roh Moo-hyun. He played a key role in the September 2005 Joint Statement on the North Korean nuclear issue at the Six-Party Talks in Beijing. After being elected as UN Secretary General in 2006, Ban was unanimously nominated for reelection by the Security Council in 2011, with the General Assembly confirming his second term by unanimous acclamation vote.

Ban earned a Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1985. He studied under famed scholar Joseph Nye, who remarked that Ban has "a rare combination of analytic clarity, humility and perseverance."

Ban is married to Yoo Soon-taek whom he met while both were in high school. They have two daughters and a son.

Time & Date: 6 PM, Thursday, February 23, 2017

Venue: InterContinental Hotel, Century City

For reservation, please contact us at Jackie.lee@cbol.com.

