



Press Release

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‘2022 Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony’ focuses on vaccine equity during the pandemic

Professor Dame Sarah Catherine Gilbert
(co-developer of AstraZeneca vaccine), and
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, are co-laureates

- Sarah Gilbert (Professor of Vaccinology, University of Oxford), for co-developing AstraZeneca vaccine
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across the globe
- Award ceremony held on Saturday, February 12, 10:00AM at HJ Global Art Center, Gapyeong, Korea and broadcasted worldwide online

The 2022 Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony was held on February 12, 10:00 AM at the HJ Global Art Center in Gapyeong, Korea by the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee (Chairman José Manuel Barroso, former President of the European Commission). The ceremony was held with live participants and broadcasted online, providing simultaneous translation in 13 different languages.

Dame Sarah Catherine Gilbert (59-years old, Professor of Vaccinology at Jenner Institute, University of Oxford) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (established in 2000) were the two laureates of the 2022 Sunhak Peace Prize, which focused on vaccine equity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Sarah Gilbert was awarded for co-developing the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, which is easier and less expensive to store and transport. She was especially recognized for her approaches to vaccine as a global public good against the COVID-19 pandemic, which she viewed as a common threat to humanity. She took a firm stand that the vaccine she developed was not for profit, and more than 2.5 billion doses of the vaccine have been supplied to 182 countries.

In her acceptance speech, Professor Sarah Gilbert stated, “We must continue to work together to strengthen our defences, not against each other, but against our common enemy; the pathogenic micro-organisms that can bring harm. We can achieve so much when we work together, each bringing our different strengths.” Furthermore, she commented on the future approach to infectious diseases that “we must learn from what worked, and what did not. We must increase the number of manufacturing facilities across the world as part of ensuring a more equitable supply of vaccines in the future. And we must continue to develop technologies in disease surveillance and diagnostics as well as vaccines.”

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance was awarded for its contributions in saving lives in lower-income countries by coordinating the COVID-19 Global Access (COVAX) Facility and providing equitable access to vaccines. More than one billion doses of the coronavirus vaccines have been distributed in 144 countries through the COVAX Facility since the pandemic began. Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance joined the award ceremony via live stream from Switzerland.

Chairman Barroso remarked in his welcoming address that “viruses thrive by division, but we can defeat it through solidarity. Science gave us the tool to control the pandemic; however, we can only do it if we use them equitably, regardless of economic status. Dame Sarah Gilbert and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance emerged at the forefront of COVID-19 as the Avengers, the hero who led the collaboration to overcome nationalism and make vaccine equity possible.”

Founder of the Sunhak Peace Prize Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and Chairman of the

Sunhak Peace Prize Committee José Manuel Barroso presented a medal and a plaque to the laureates, who also received a prize money of 500,000 U.S. dollars.

The Sunhak Peace Prize is awarded with a prize money of 1 million U.S. dollars to an individual or organization with significant contributions for peace and welfare of future generations.