Dr. Tae Yun Kim, Ambassador to the Nations

Born in rural South Korea in 1946, Dr. Tae Yun Kim was abandoned several times by her family because she was born in a culture where first born girls were considered to be bad luck and a curse. She was ostracized and outcast by her family and villagers from the moment of her birth. Overcoming thousands of years of tradition that forbade girls from training in the martial arts, Dr. Kim started training in Taekwondo when she was only 7 years old. She became the first female ever in Korea to train in Taekwondo, to earn a black belt and to eventually become a Great Grandmaster. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1968 with only $300 in her pocket. She faced a tremendous amount of prejudice and discrimination as she cleaned toilets and pumped gas to earn a living before opening up her first martial art school in Vermont. Today, she is the Chairman & CEO of Silicon Valley high tech company, Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions, the leader in manufacturing cleanroom monitoring systems and particle measurement instruments. She is also an author, a TV talk show personality, a motivational speaker and lecturer, a philanthropist, an entrepreneur, an Honorary Commander at Travis Air Force Base, and more. Dr. Kim is also a Knight and Grand Dame in the Royal Orders of Constantine the Great and of St. Helen, the first female to be knighted as a chevalier in the 1700 history of the Orders. In 2001, the President & First Lady of South Korea called Dr. Kim “the Hope of the Country” for the work she did throughout South Korea to uplift the spirits of the people during the IMF crisis with her trademarked motto, “He Can Do, She Can Do, Why Not Me!” Today, Dr. Kim is committed to helping people and to reaching out to the nations of the world in order to share the spirit of the Asian World Film Festival.

For more information about Dr. Kim and her life story, go to www.taeyunkim.com