Thank you to Yahoram Ben-Shalom for your kind introduction.

Ambassadors Argueillo,
Ambassador Netakiratimana,
Director Zhou,
Dr. White-Davis, and
Sr. Director Korey Riggs, greetings.
And to Up With People and especially to Madoka Tatsuno and Tammie Lamoges for all you have done to make this event possible.

What should we make of our record of war and peace in the last century?
Certainly much of the progress of the 20th century was due to innovation and invention born from the science and technology of our great universities and research-based corporations.

Yet, as Woody Allen, the famous film-maker noted: the 20th century was the bloodiest century in human history.

This bloodshed also had its roots in the science and technology of the world’s same great universities and research-based corporations.

Certainly, my life—and that of my father and grandfather—were defined by war. WWI in France for my grandfather, WWII as a bomber pilot with many missions over Europe and nearly a year in German prisoner-of-war camps for my father, and Vietnam as a young naval officer for me.

And, as Mr. Ben-Shalom noted in his introduction, I served as the Under Secretary of the Navy for President Bill Clinton for three years, including the war in Kosovo. So you have invited today a university President, who pursues peace, but one who has been tested by war.

Perhaps you read yesterday in the New York Times, the words of United States Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who said—what I have been saying for nearly a decade since my service for Bill Clinton in the Pentagon helping lead the Navy and the Marine Corps—that a stable and growing world cannot be sustained by military power alone.
This is why, I am sure, you are here—because you believe that an increased investment in peace is dearly needed in today’s world. And that is why I am here with you.

But what kinds of investments in peace should we make? What will truly create a culture of peace?

Let’s think of some of the things that we once thought would work—but are coming up short?

The end of the Cold War? If only we were not polarized by two monolithic competing ideologies, we could have peace.

Yet the Cold War’s end has not resulted in peace, but, after a brief euphoria, it has lead to the contrary.

And as oil reserves decline and global warming heats up, we are entering a new era of increasing conflict in which resources and pollution will be the cause for war. This is not a cold war, but a warm war—with risks that are equally grave.

Face-to-face initiatives? If only we could meet in person, we would come to understand and trust each other. This is dear to your heart—and to mine—but in many cases, proximity has generated not only increased tensions, but regional wars, and tribal genocide that rival the 20th century. Up With People has learned that it takes something much stronger—I am using your words—it takes concrete methods and strategies for bringing about conflict resolution and peace.

Global communications—If only we could communicate around the world, get everyone access to information, we would have less reason for war? Yet the Internet, the world wide web, have become as much tools of conflict, anger and war as tools of peace.

The world of the 21st century, the world you will live your whole life in—the post-Cold War, globally-connected, high density information cyber-world that will define your lives—is not a one-way street to a culture of peace.

Indeed, there is much that says this new world is at greater risk of massive violence, pestilence, and destruction than the very bloody 20th century.

This is a stark report on the beginning of the 21st century. If you have evidence that we are better off—that we should have more hope—please bring it forward.

For me, as a veteran of war, a seeker of peace, and a university President, my challenge to you is to not take lightly your mission of building a culture of peace.
And my report, as one who has tried to build such a culture of peace, is that you will face daunting, career-ending, and even life-threatening challenges as you build this culture.

This assignment is not a walk in the park.

**So let’s be serious about what may work in building a culture of peace.**

One of the great values of our universities is that there are zones of innovation where new ideas can be explored, debated, tested, and perfected. That’s what we do at Polytechnic University here in NYC and it has paid results.

First, we have teamed up with Japanese partners to create a new method of building future solutions call “Peace Gaming.” So much like the war-games of the military, we are using simulation and exercises to build new tools and solutions for peace.

For instance, this past January, the President of Georgetown University and I, as President of Polytechnic, lead a simulation or “peace game” in Beijing between Chinese leaders and United States leaders to gain a better understanding of how to sustain peace and protect lives if China’s oil supplies were suddenly shutoff. We learned in this “peace game” that there was no place on this earth where all the parties concerned could meet and solve this problem. This is a major shortcoming—and someone needs to fix it—soon.

So here’s one tool for building a culture of peace: simulations and exercises that detect flaws in our global security and economic systems.

Let me give you a second example. We all know how good universities are at generating science and technology—and we have used it to create a consumer economy for the world’s richest people. But ask yourself, how good are we at using this science and technology to improve the lot of people in developing countries? Not as good.

But are there signs of hope? Consider MIT, Polytechnic’s little sister in Boston. This summer, a young, entrepreneurial woman associate professor organized D-Lab. D for development. She challenged scientists and engineers to invent and innovate new products that people in developing countries could afford—and could use for improving their lives. This was not her invention—but it could have been. You know what this is? A life-straw that makes river water drinkable for a year at less than $3 a piece.

Equally important—and a project which we at Polytechnic are excited about—is teaching young people around the world to invent new products, find new markets, and create companies and jobs—using the same entrepreneurial skills that have led to so many breakthroughs in the United States.
Not every new invention needs to be high-tech, nor high-priced to change the world by giving people better health or a quicker way to learn or a better job. If the world were filled with young entrepreneurs, inventors, and innovators—these young people would have not only hope but a stake in the future. This stake in the future, we believe, leads directly to a culture of peace.

Finally, my third example. Information portals from which young and old around the world can learn the tools and techniques of a culture of peace have enormous potential.

We all know that way the world wide web has carried news and information to people in nearly every corner and village of the world. Polytechnic is joining with you in helping build a portal that is an open source of information, helps people share information and knowledge about their cultures, and has peer-to-peer tools for building and sustaining a culture of peace.

For instance, we have been engaged for three years in finding better ways to provide health care services in Africa by using wi-max and computers. My challenge to you is to populate this portal with ideas, tools, techniques, and talent that are up to the challenge of truly creating a culture of peace.

Universities around the world believe that knowledge and learning are one of the human races strongest methods for building a better world. As I noted in the beginning of my remarks, if knowledge and learning alone were sufficient, the 20th century would not have been history’s bloodiest century and the 21st century would not be off to such a bloody start.

You may ask how can I make a difference? Let me suggest that with the diverse cultures represented in this room, you engage in a honest and real effort to identify exactly how your qualities within each of your cultures leads to conflict or contributes to peace. I believe you will discover that we all have room to grow and improve.

We at Polytechnic believe that a culture of peace can be developed if knowledge and learning are used with three key ideas in mind:

**Entrepreneurship:** Give young people the skills to create new products, enterprises, and jobs—so they and their families have a stake in stability and in a culture of peace.

**Invention and innovation:** You should challenge universities and research corporations to solve the essential problems of sustaining life for the nearly 3 billion people who have access to less than $2 a day, so these people have hope.

**Information:** Use information—and the ability to link the world—to understand why peace fails and where wars start, so that those who are seeking a culture of peace can have greater impact.
In closing, we at Polytechnic share your ambitions for building and sustaining a culture of peace. We are eager for you to succeed—and equally committed to use our science and technology to support a world that is not only secure and stable, but thriving and at peace.
Thank you for having us with you today.
Now, I would be glad to take some questions and hear your ideas.