

A Post Script to a report dated February 4, 2013
on the observance of WIHW event in South Korea.

Given the general atmosphere in which Islam in Korea is still largely negatively and unfairly represented in Korea, planning and execution of any programs for interfaith interactions involving Islam demand special security care, so as not to encourage any open disturbance or opposition by religious zealots or extremists. In our efforts to strike a balance between the size of the audience and the imperatives of holding the meeting itself, our realistic option necessarily favors the latter, as we believe that it could be a precursor to more meaningful days ahead.

One practical way we resorted to ensure this is to deliver messages of the event to reach the press during the slack hours and a bit too close to the event, so they would hear about the program as a *fait accompli*. That we were able to conduct the event peacefully on both previous occasions, we believe, served us well. It so happened that the only press agency, www.veritas.kr, a local internet news agency, reported the event this year and its cursory story did not seem to have caught on. We, on our part, were more interested in the quality and safety of the meeting, rather than the size of the audience at this early stage of the evolution of a new culture of peaceful co-existence of religions..

One disappointing point for us this year was the rather inadequate photo ops particularly scenes of questions and answers at the end of the lecture. We are hopeful our future activities would progressively evolve more dynamically and cooperatively to meet the calls of the UN mandates.

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