

World Interfaith Week declared in Davao City

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By Arianne Caryl N. Casas

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THE Davao City Council passed a resolution on Tuesday declaring the first week of February each year as World Interfaith Week in the city.

In her privilege speech during the regular session, Councilor Pilar C. Braga said she received a letter dated January 2 from the Interfaith Harmony by Fr. Hermes Larry B. Sabus, SM, Ustadz Isa D. Tahas and Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla.

The letter stated that some organizations met on December 27, 2012 to respond to the United Nations Resolution declaring 2013 as "Interfaith Harmony Links."

She said the groups decided to participate in the celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week on February 1-7, 2012 with the theme "Celebrating Interfaith Harmony for Love and Service to God and One Another."

The participating groups are The Bishop-Ulama Conference, Al-Qalam Institute and Theology Division of the Ateneo de Davao University, Ma'had Piapi Al-Islamie, Archdiocesan Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue, Mindanao Sulu Pastoral Conference-Youth Secretariat, 10th Infantry Division-Philippine Army, Mindanao Pranic healing Foundation, Brahma Kumaris, Philippine National Police, and Silsilah Forum Davao.

"The Interfaith Harmony Link aims to promote the World Interfaith Harmony Week; facilitate dynamic activities and create a space for exchange of thought/reflections/insights/dialogue on the theme; encourage representatives of different sectors to initiate voluntarily programs and activities promoting peace and harmony; and to strengthen partnership and mutual support in promoting Interfaith Harmony," Braga said.



Davao celebrates World Interfaith Harmony Week

The need of dialogue of different faiths and religions and their contribution to the world peace is recognized by the United Nations since 2010. This February 1-7 the world will celebrate Interfaith Harmony Week with the theme "Celebrating Interfaith Harmony to Love God and Service to One's Neighbour".

All countries are encouraged to support the spread of interfaith harmony and goodwill. The UN believes that through this initiative, it will bring peace. This special week is gaining great attention in the world and is a lucid sign of hope.

The UN is now convinced more than ever that development and peace without "love" cannot be achieved in the world. Thus, it is a new

paradigm of dialogue and peace that invites people from different cultures, religions, traditions, etc. to celebrate and work together for "harmony to love God and service to one's neighbor".

The Silsilah Forum Davao initiated the said harmony week here in the city. They organized consultative meetings for the celebration of the harmony week calling it as "Interfaith Harmony Links 2013".

The initiatives of the Interfaith Harmony Links are the following: press conference, student leaders confluence for harmony, interfaith prayer and harmony meal, future of power dialogue, photo exhibit, song and poetry composition, and signing of covenant. *by Florame Espada / Correspondent*

