



**1. What is World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)?**

The United Nations (UN) on October 20, 2010, recognizing the need of dialogue among different faiths and religions and their contribution to the work of peace in the world, has proclaimed the first week of February of every year the “World Interfaith Harmony Week”. The UN encourages “all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the interfaith harmony and goodwill. The celebration based on the love of God and love of one’s neighbor or on love of the good and love of one’s neighbor, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions (UN Resolution).”

**2. Why do we promote this special week?**

Because, we believe that this initiative brings about harmony and peace. It unites us with many in the world who journey together to celebrate and live out “Interfaith Harmony” guided by the love of God and the love of neighbor. This special week is gaining great attention in the world and is a lucid sign of hope.

**3. There are already many other initiatives of dialogue and peace, why the World Interfaith Harmony week?**

The United Nations as an international body realized that there is a need for a specific attention on the “interfaith harmony” guided by the love of God and the love of neighbour. This is a move towards a more “spiritual approach to dialogue and peace”. The UN is convinced now 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”.

Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan, the proponent of the World Interfaith Harmony Week to the UN said, that harmony cannot be understood as merely tolerance, acceptance or peace. He says, ***“we cannot use the term ‘peace’ alone because it suggests merely the absence of war, and not necessarily the absence of hatred. Only the Confucian concept of ‘harmony’ can rescue us here because it suggests not merely ‘peace’, but also “beautiful and dynamic interaction between different elements within a whole”.***

**4. What groups in Davao City, Philippines have initiated the WIHW 2013?**

The Silsilah Forum Davao (SFD) organized a consultative meeting for the celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week 2013. The groups who responded to the invitation and participated in the meeting called themselves the “Interfaith Harmony Links 2013”.

**5. What does Interfaith Harmony Links stand for?**

It stands for the following organizations: Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education of the Department of Education, Archdiocesan Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue, Ateneo de Davao University, Ata Paquibato Kalayag Organization, Bishops-Ulama Conference , Brahma Kumaris, Davao Association of Catholic Schools, Davao City Government, Dominican Fathers Davao , Eastern Mindanao Command, 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Agila) Division of the Philippine Army, Franciscan Friars of Third Order Regular, Literacy & Development Program for Indigenous People, Ma’had Piapi Al-Islamie, Mindanao Pranic Healing Center, Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference-Youth Secretariate, Mindanaw Tripartite Youth Core, Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao, Philippine National Police Regional Chaplain 11, University of Mindanao, Silsilah Forum Davao. **This is a growing link that welcomes participation from more groups and individuals.**

**6. What are the initiatives of Interfaith Harmony Links 2013 in celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week?**

1. PRESS CONFERENCE  
Jan. 28, 2013, Kapehan sa SM, Ecoland
2. STUDENT LEADERS' CONFLUENCE FOR HARMONY c/o Silsilah Forum Davao & DACS  
Feb. 1, 2013 (8:30-11:00 am) San Pedro College
3. INTERFAITH PRAYER & HARMONY MEAL c/o Theology Division & Al-Qalam, AdDU  
Feb.1, 2013 (4:00-6:00pm) Ateneo de Davao University
4. FUTURE OF POWER DIALOGUE c/o Brahma Kumaris  
Feb. 4 (3:00-6:00pm) BUC Hall, Karpentrade Bldg., Matina
5. TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM GUESTING (Promotion WIHW)  
Feb. 5, 2013 (6:30-7:00 am)GMA Network Davao, Shrine, Matina
6. Prayer for Harmony c/o Mindanao Pranic Healing Center  
Feb. 5, 2013 (6:00pm) Pranic Healing Center, 5<sup>th</sup> F/ Rm 503, Medical Arts Bldg., San Pedro Hospital
7. SONG and POETRY COMPOSITION c/o DACS  
Feb. 1 - 7, 2013
8. PEACE and HARMONY FORUM c/o SALAM, AdDU  
Feb. 6, 2013 (3:40pm) Ateneo de Davao University
9. SIGNING OF COVENANT c/o Silsilah Forum Davao  
Feb. 7, 2013 (4:00-6:30pm) People's Park, Camus St.
10. PHOTO EXHIBIT c/o Al-Qalam Institute, AdDU  
Feb. 7-11, 2013

**7. What is the theme of the WIHW this year?**

“Celebrating Interfaith Harmony for Love and Service to God and One Another”  
The Interfaith Harmony Links adapted its theme from Zamboanga City, Philippines.

**8. How to contact us?**

Phone (082) 303-8690 / +63 9193316910, Email Add: [sfdavao@gmail.com](mailto:sfdavao@gmail.com)  
Facebook account: Interfaith Harmony Links 2013.