



In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

SIGNING OF COVENANT CEREMONY
DAVAO, PHILIPPINES

The week-long activity of the World Interfaith Harmony Week culminated on February 7, 2013 with the “Signing of the Covenant Ceremony” at the People’s Park of Davao City. The main organizer of this event was the Silsilah Forum Davao. There were about two hundred people participated during the culmination. It was a very prayerful, meaningful, colourful and moving experience to be with people of different colours, religions, cultures, traditions, etc. During the signing of the covenant the representatives from different religious traditions: Indigenous People, Buddhist, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Islam and Hindu gave an invocation prayer. The event highlighted the reading of the Covenant Statement that was presented in different local and foreign languages. It was followed by the signing of the Covenant of the different leaders, representatives of institutions and offices. Copies of the Covenant were also given to everyone and invited to sign them. The participants were amused by the lovely and environmental songs and beautiful cultural dances. The literary compositions and paintings of the selected students were acknowledged and performed.

Indeed, the harmony that we are trying to envision is already happening. Yes, there are many people who would want to live in harmony with creation, with others, with self and with God. We need to create the culture of harmony and we can learn from our environment, how nature lives in harmony together with other creatures. As Fr. Larry Sabud expressed in his song, “The Signs of the Horizon”:

Like the cosmos that houses the visible and non-visible beings
Like the forest that welcomes varieties of trees, plants and animals
Like the rivers and oceans that allow assorted species of fish to swim
All are interconnected, there’s harmony and peace.

Definitely, nature can teach us the ways to live in harmony. We have been conscious about it over the first week of February this year. In many ways we have been moved by the various initiatives in the celebration of the WIHW. **The challenge for us is how to continue and sustain our experience of harmony this year. We don’t have to look for opportunities to live in harmony because harmony starts from ourselves, in fact from God. We can all do it in our own pace, but in the atmosphere of interconnectedness.**

MS. NOR ASIAH MADALE ADILAO
Muslim Coordinator, Silsilah Forum Davao
Over-all Coordinator, WIHW 2013
Davao City, Philippines

FR. HERMES LARRY B. SABUD, SM
Christian Coordinator, Silsilah Forum Davao
Davao City, Philippines