

UPF Malaysia Observes World Interfaith Harmony Week.

An observance of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week with the theme 'Love of the Good, Love of the Neighbour' was organised by UPF Malaysia on 9 February 2014.

Ambassadors for Peace, religious leaders, representatives of NGOs gathered early Sunday morning at the Malaysia Peace Embassy.

The program officially commenced with the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. Sudesh, Deputy President of UPF Malaysia was the MC and introduced that UPF Malaysia has been observing the World Interfaith Harmony Week every year since its adoption by the UN.



Singing of National anthem



Emcee, Mr Sudesh, Deputy President, UPF Malaysia

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr. Devaki Krishnan, President of UPF Malaysia gave the welcome remarks. She stressed that peace must first be found within ourselves and radiates outwards in the context of loving and caring families then to the larger communities, society and nations.



Welcome remarks by YBhg Tan Sri Dr Devaki Krishnan, President, UPF Malaysia



Reading of UN Secretary General's Message by Mdm Lina Cheng, President, WFPW Malaysia

This was followed by the reading of UN Secretary General's Message by Madam Lina Cheng, President of the Women's Federation of World Peace Malaysia.

The religious representatives then took the stage to give the invocation drawing inspiration from their respective faith traditions. Islam was represented by Tuan Mahadi Mohamad, UPF Council Member and Ambassador for Peace, Christianity by Pastor Maniam, Chairman

of the Shalom Community Service, Buddhism by Venerable B. Sri Saranankara Nayaka Thero, Abbot of Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara, Hinduism by Swami Swayam Jayananda, President of The Divine Life Society Sivananda Ashram, Batu Caves and Taoism by Mr. Daozhang Tong, Secretary General of the Federation of Taoist Association of Malaysia.



Multi-religious invocations



Interfaith ceremony

After giving the multi-religious invocations, the religious representatives took part in a meaningful ceremony to mark the common basis of the theme of the World Interfaith Harmony Week: “Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour”. They each poured water representing the wisdom, knowledge and commitment of their respective religious and faith traditions commemorating the hope of the United Nations as well all people of this nation for ‘Interfaith harmony’.

The programme then had two special speech presentations. The first presentation was on **Rebuilding the 1Malaysia Family**. Mr. Joaquim Huang, Vice President of UPF Malaysia and author of the book ‘The Hidden Saviour in You’ presented the fundamental notion that unity is prescribed in all religious scriptures.



Presentation on “Rebuilding the 1Malaysia Family” by Mr Joaquim Huang



Presentation on “Religion, Spirituality and Interfaith Harmony” by Dr Amir

This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Amir Farid Isahak, Chairman of the Interfaith Spiritual Fellowship (InSaf) on **Religion, Spirituality and Interfaith Harmony**. Dr Amir highlighted the necessary ingredients for interfaith harmony and urged all for its realisation through respecting others belief and differences. He also emphasised the need for dialogue.

The observance came to a harmonious end with a closing song by three Japanese sisters Ayumi, Yoko and Mana who are among the hundred or so volunteers dispatched to 40 nations around the world by Mother Moon. They rendered a beautiful Japanese song when translated meant 'One Family'.



Song presentation by Japanese sisters



Souvenirs presentation to the speakers and religious leaders

The observance enlightened all the participants that interfaith cooperation is a necessary precondition for peace and happiness in our society, nation and the world and a crucial need to work together for the benefit of the nation and all its people.

The programme concluded with souvenirs of appreciation handed by Tan Sri Dr. Devaki Krishnan to the religious representatives and speakers.



Commemorative photos