



Soka Gakkai International  
of the Philippines

**ACTIVITY REPORT:** World Interfaith Harmony Week Youth Forum 2017

**DATE:** February 7, 2017

**TIME:** 02:00PM-05:30PM

**VENUE:** SGI Philippines, Davao Culture Center, Tahimik Avenue, Davao City

**ATTENDANCE:**

DIVISION	HOST ORG	GUEST SCHOOLS			GUEST ORGANIZATION						GRAN TOTAL Per Division
	SGI	DRANHS	EMAR	YMCA	Global Impact	Al Qalam	Salaam Movement	Brahma Kumaris	A.O.C.A.I.	Soroptimist	
Men's	1								1		2
Women's	8		1	1	1	1	1	1		2	16
Young Men's	6	1	8	1	1	1	1		2		21
Young women's	4	2	14						1		21
<b>TOTAL PER ORG</b>	19	3	23	2	2	2	2	1	4	2	60



**PROGRAMME:**

**Soka Gakkai International of the Philippines  
SOUTHERN MINDANAO GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
HIGH SCHOOL & STUDENT DIVISION**

**WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK PROGRAM**

*February 7, 2016 - 2:00pm*

**Meeting In-Charge: *Erique Mendoza***

**Emcee/s: *Erique Mendoza***

02:00 – 02:15PM	<b>Registration</b>
02:15 – 02:40PM	<b>Interfaith Opening Prayer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Christian</b></li><li>- <b>Muslim</b></li><li>- <b>Indigenous People</b></li><li>- <b>Sgi Buddhist</b></li></ul>
02:40 – 02:45PM	<b>Welcome Remarks for the Guests and Speakers by SGI PR Representative Erique Mendoza</b>
02:45 – 03:00PM	<b>Event Synopsis (introduction of World Interfaith Harmony Week)</b>
03:00 – 03:02PM	<b>Introduction of Guest Christian Speaker (Ms. Hope Fernandez)</b>
03:02 – 03:15PM	<b>Brief History of The Christian faith</b>
03:15 – 03:17PM	<b>Introduction of Guest Muslim Speaker (Mr. Ustadh Abulkhayr Carcauga)</b>
03:17 – 03:30PM	<b>Brief History of The Islam faith</b>
03:30 – 03:32PM	<b>Introduction of Guest Lumad Speaker (Mr. Rudy M. Mande)</b>
03:32 – 03:45PM	<b>Brief History of The IP faith</b>
03:45 – 03:47PM	<b>Introduction of Guest SGI Buddhist Speaker (Mr. Jun Figuracion)</b>
03:47 – 04:00PM	<b>Brief History of The Buddhist faith</b>
04:00 – 04:05PM	<b>The Youth Interfaith Unity Song</b>
04:05 – 04:35PM	<b>Question and Answer</b>
04:35 – 04:40PM	<b>Special Number by Joshua Fresco of YMCA</b>
04:40 – 04:50PM	<b>Reflection and Event Impressions</b>
04:50 – 05:00PM	<b>Reading of Reflection and Conviction</b>
05:00 – 05:15PM	<b>Awarding of Tokens</b>
05:15 – 05:20PM	<b>Announcement of Activities of Partner Organizations</b>
05:20 – 05:25PM	<b>Closing Speech by SMGHQ WD Chief Flor Asturias</b>
05:25 – 05:28PM	<b>Commemorative Photo</b>
05:28 – 05:30PM	<b>Harmony Snacks</b>

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## **NARRATIVE:**

United Nation's World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) is an annual celebration around the world from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February to promote unity among the diverse culture and belief system of every nation. This year, Soka Gakkai International of the Philippines – Southern Mindanao once again took the lead to commemorate this event by holding the very first “World Interfaith Harmony Week Youth Forum” last February 7, 2017 which started at 2pm at the SGI Davao Culture Center, Davao City.

The forum which adopted WIHW slogan “Love of the Good, Love of the Neighbor” as its theme, was spearheaded by the SGI Southern Mindanao PR Youth representative and in partnership with Davao Peace Council Partners; Young Men Christian Association (YMCA), Global Impact, Al Qalam Institute Salaam Movement, Brahma Kumaris, Soroptimist and 10<sup>th</sup> ID CMO Philippine Army. The objective of the event is to present brief history and core values of the 4 major religion in the region namely, Christians, Islam, Lumad or Indigenous People (IP) and SGI Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. In addition, the forum also aims to answer queries of the invited youth participants from different schools pertaining on how the different religious groups view happiness, sufferings, and life as a whole focusing not on the differences but more on how similar each religious systems are in their views and how they overcome daily life challenges to be victorious and happy in life.

The forum started with the traditional Harmony Prayer where the representatives of the Christian, Muslim, IP and SGI Buddhist community offered peace and harmony prayer respectively. The Harmony prayer was succeeded by the Opening remarks of SGI PR representative Erique Mendoza, which he gracefully welcomed honorable guest speakers, representatives of each participating Davao Council Organizations, School guests such EMAR Human and Environmental College and Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School. He also gave a brief synopsis of the WIHW and introduced the first speaker representing the Christian Community, Mrs. Hope Fernandez of Global Impact. Mrs. Fernandez discussed about their views and faith as an Evangelical Christian and showed us how they integrate it with their advocacy to nurture the youth to be better individuals. The next speaker was the Islam representative, Mr. Ustadh Abulkhayr Carcuaga of Al Qalam Salaam Movement. Mr. Carcuaga discussed mostly the basic core values and belief system of the Muslim community reiterating that Islam is actually a religion of peace and love. The third speaker is the Indigenous People representative Elder Rudy Mande of the Office for the Indigenous people of Davao City hall. Elder Mande discussed how similar the Lumad faith to Christian and he showed videos of the rich culture and tradition of his tribe. Furthermore, he also shared how he struggled to be the first in their tribe to finish college and how he is paying grate gratitude to the people who helped him by helping his tribe to have more children to be educated at school. The last speaker is the SGI PR representative Mr. Justino Figuracion, who had a very comprehensive presentation about the history of Buddhism and he also showed a short film of SGI such as the “History of SGI” and “SGI Buddhist Movement” (Short Version). After the presentations, SGI PR representative Erique Mendoza showcased the SGI Song entitled “Harmony in Diversity”, a song written and arranged by Renaissance Youth group of Soka Gakkai Malaysia, which the lyrics was show in the big screen. Audience and the Davao Peace Council Members loved the song so much, thus, unanimously declaring the song as the official DAVAO PEACE & INTERFAITH UNIVERSITY CARAVAN theme song.



The highlight of the event was the Open Forum session, where Brahma Kumaris representative Ms. Arlene Lozano Broke the ice by asking what is the views of each religious group about why people have to experience suffering. Each religious group representative gave enlightening views with a common point that sufferings are there for people to view them as challenges to be overcome. Views from the students was shared, and a student from EMAR Human and Environmental College also asked about how to overcome challenges and how each of the religious group deal with the LGBT community and Gender equality. The exchange of views and ideas on the matter was both enlightening and challenging yet all representative gave the students a common answer that life is precious and must be respected no matter what the raise, belief and gender preferences that we all must strive to love the good and our neighbors for a harmonious future.

After the open forum, a special number was given by Davao local talent Jef Fresco of Association of Creative Artist Inc. singing inspirational songs such as "One day" by Matishyahu and "I Lived" by OneRepublic. Tokens and Certificates of appreciation was awarded to all participating organization, guest schools, guest performer, and honorable speakers was done, before the closing remarks was given by SMGHQ WD Chief Flor Asturias. The event was concluded by a commemorative photo and harmony snacks sponsored by Soportimist's Alternative Catering.

#### **PICTURES:**

- WIHW00001: Event Tarp**
- WIHW00002: SGI PR Representative Erique Mendoza giving the welcome remarks**
- WIHW00003: Global Impact's Hope Fernandez offering the Christian Prayer**
- WIHW00004: Al Qalam Salaam Movement's Ustadh Abulkhayr Carcuaga offering the Islam Prayer**
- WIHW00005: Indigenous People representative Elder Rudy Mande offering the Lumad Prayer**
- WIHW00006: SGI PR Representative Erique Mendoza offering the Harmony Buddhist Prayer**
- WIHW00007: The World Interfaith Harmony Week Youth Forum during the SGI Buddhist Prayer**
- WIHW00008: The World Interfaith Harmony Week Youth Forum 2017 participants from different organizations and schools.**
  
- WIHW00009: Global Impact's Hope Fernandez representing the Christian Faith**
- WIHW00010: Global Impact's Hope Fernandez during her presentation about Christian Faith**
- WIHW00011: Al Qalam Salaam Movement's Ustadh Abulkhayr Carcuaga representing the Islam Faith**
- WIHW00012: Al Qalam Salaam Movement's Ustadh Abulkhayr Carcuaga during his presentation about the Islam faith**
  
- WIHW00013: Indigenous People representative Elder Rudy Mande**
- WIHW00014: Indigenous People representative Elder Rudy Mande during his presentation**
- WIHW00015: SGI PR Representative Mr. Justino Figuracion representing the Nichiren Buddhist Faith**
- WIHW00016: SGI PR Representative Mr. Justino Figuracion during his presentation**
- WIHW00017: SGI PR Representative Erique Mendoza giving a short introduction of the SGI Song "Harmony in Diversity"**
  
- WIHW00018: The "Harmony in Diversity" song lyrics was shown in the screen while it is being played.**
- WIHW00019: Davao Peace Council partners attentively reads the lyrics as they listen to the song**
- WIHW00020: SGI YWD HSD Chief Gloriza Mercado and the Students of EMAR Human & Environmental College also reads the lyrics of the song while being played**
  
- WIHW00021: SGI's Erique Mendoza moderating the Interfaith Forum.**
- WIHW00022: Forum Panelists Mr. Justino Figuracion, Elder Rudy Mande, Mrs. Hope Fernandez, & Mr. Ustadh Abulkhayr Carcuaga**



- WIHW00023:** Brahma Kumaris representative Mrs. Arlene Lozano breaking the ice with her question about how the panelist view suffering in life.
- WIHW00024:** Mr. Justino Figuracion giving his answer based on Nichiren Daishonin's teaching about sufferings in life.
- WIHW00025:** Global Impact's Mrs. Hope Fernandez giving the Christians perspective of suffering.
- WIHW00026:** Brahma Kumaris representative Mrs. Arlene Lozano also sharing their faith's views about suffering.
- WIHW00027:** A Student form EMAR asking about how the 4 Religion deal with the growing LGBT community
- WIHW00028:** Mr. Justino Figuracion giving a Buddhist perspective on how to respect the life of each people regardless of gender preferences.
- WIHW00029:** AL Qalam's Mr. Carcuaga giving the Islam's perspective of the LGBT community.
- WIHW00030:** Elder Rudy Mande giving insights on how Lumad's deal with the LGBT concerns.
- WIHW00031:** Mrs. Hope Fernandez stating that we should all respect the human life despite the differences of faith, gender orientation, race and color.
- WIHW00032:** Davao Local Talent and AOCAI member Jef Fresco singing "One day" by Matishyahu.
- WIHW00033:** Davao Local Talent Jef Fresco singing an inspirational song about living life to the fullest entitled "I lived" by Onerepublic
- WIHW00034:** Awarding of certificate to our Peace Partners and co-organizer Al Qalam Salaam Movement represented by Ms. Althea Esmael
- WIHW00035:** Awarding of certificate to our Peace Partners and co-organizer YMCA represented by Oliver Bernadez
- WIHW00036:** Awarding of certificate to our Peace Partners and co-organizer Global Impact represented by Mrs. Hope Fernandez
- WIHW00037:** Awarding of certificate to our Peace Partners and co-organizer Soroptimist
- WIHW00038:** Awarding of certificate to our Guest School EMAR Human & Environmental College
- WIHW00039:** Awarding of certificate to our Peace Partners and co-organizer Brahma Kumaris represented by Mrs. Arlene Lozano
- WIHW00040:** Awarding of certificate to our Guest School Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School represented by Mr. Oliver Bernadez
- WIHW00041:** Awarding of certificate to our Guest performer from Association of Creative Artist Inc. Jef Fresco.
- WIHW00042:** Awarding of Token of Appreciation to our SGI Buddhist speaker (from left to right Erique Mendoza, Mr. Justino Figuracion, Sylvia Piedad of YMCA and Mrs. Flor Asturias)
- WIHW00043:** Awarding of Token of Appreciation to our Lumad speaker (from left to right Erique Mendoza, Elder Rudy Mande, Sylvia Piedad of YMCA and Mrs. Flor Asturias)
- WIHW00044:** Awarding of Token of Appreciation to our Islam speaker (from left to right Erique Mendoza, Mr. Ustadh Abulkhayr Carcuaga, Sylvia Piedad of YMCA and Mrs. Flor Asturias)
- WIHW00045:** Awarding of Token of Appreciation to our Christain speaker (from left to right Erique Mendoza, Mrs. Hope fernandez, Sylvia Piedad of YMCA and Mrs. Flor Asturias)
- WIHW00046:** Closing remarks given by SMGHQ WD Chief Flor Asturias
- WIHW00047:** Commemorative Photo.