

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK: AN ATMOSPHERE TO DIALOGUE

“Celebrating harmony in the spirit of Mercy and Compassion”

February 1, 2017, 1:30-6:00pm

Rationale

On October 20, 2010, the United Nations (UN) Assembly accepted the proposal of H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan to celebrate the first week of February of every year as the celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW). This is to recognize the importance of dialogue in the pluralistic context of our world today. This is also an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of different cultures, traditions and religions to the work of peace. The UN encourages “all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the interfaith harmony and goodwill.” This celebration is the fruit of the initiative of the 138 Muslim Scholars who wrote the letter entitled: “A Common Word between Us and You is love of God and love of one’s neighbor.”

Responding to the UN Resolution, the Silsilah Forum Davao (SFD) in partnership with the Ateneo de Davao University and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia will organize the World Interfaith Harmony Week: An atmosphere to dialogue with the theme “Celebrating Harmony in the spirit of Mercy and Compassion”. We believe that this initiative will bring about harmony and peace. Further, it will also unite us with others in the world who are journeying to live out and celebrate “Harmony” grounded in the love of God and the love of neighbor.

Objectives:

1. To have a common understanding of the essence and meaning of the celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week;
2. To experience harmony in the diversity of cultures and faith traditions;
3. To pray, promote and celebrate harmony in the spirit of Mercy and Compassion.