

## WIHW 2017: Another Breakthrough in Dialogue!



Silsilah Forum Davao in partnership with Ateneo de Davao University and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City sponsored the opening program of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) 2017 last February 1, 2017 at the Finster Auditorium of Ateneo de Davao University between 1:30 - 6:00 PM.



The program was formally opened with Interfaith Prayer led by Aleem Mahmud Mala Adilao for the Muslim, Fr. Tony Basilio, SJ for the Christian and Julieto Dalagma for the Indigenous people.



For introduction, Silsilah Forum Davao Christian Coordinator Fr. Hermes "Larry" B. Sabud, SM with Muslim Coordinator Ms. Nor Asiah Madale Adilao gave the rationale for the WIHW, an explanation to the video presentation of the WIHW proposal to the UN General assembly.





The welcome address was delivered by Fr. Archimedes Lachica, SJ in behalf of the Ateneo de Davao University President, Fr. Joel Tabora, SJ.



The Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, Berlian Napitupulu gave the inspirational



*The participants..*



*The panel of discussants..*





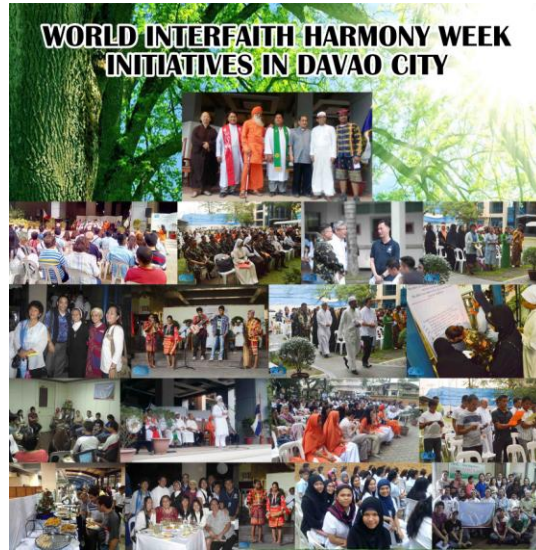
Representatives of 4 religious groups comprised the Panel of Discussants:

Alencio Yap, representative of Rev. Neng Zhen of Buddhism; Archbishop Emeritus Fernando R. Capalla of the Bishops-Ulama Conference for Christianity; Jigtar Singh, Indian priest of the Sikh/Hinduism in Davao City; and Ustadz Mustofa Mardjuki, Islamic scholar from Indonesia.



World Interfaith Harmony Week: An Atmosphere to Dialogue brings oneness and harmony among peoples of different cultures and faith traditions. The panel of representatives from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Shikh/Hinduism shared their message and reflection about the theme “Celebrating Harmony in the spirit of Mercy and Compassion”.





Silsilah Forum Davao displayed photo gallery of WIHW initiatives in Davao City in cooperation with the Harmony Links from 2013 until 2016.



WIHW 2017 is another breakthrough of dialogue in Davao City, Philippines. Even with short time duration for planning and with only short meetings for the partners, the activity was a success. The organizing committee is thankful for the participation of our peace partners and individuals open to such a celebration. We are encouraged that as a part of Asia our voices and actions are considered significant in the world today. May we continue to create spaces and events with others for dialogue and harmony. As inspired by our Silsilah founder Fr. Sebastiano D' Ambra, we say *Padayon* (move on)..!