



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK IN KUALA LUMPUR & SINGAPORE

2-7 FEBRUARY 2015

REPORT



BY:



**YOUNG INTERFAITH
PEACEMAKER COMMUNITY
INDONESIA**

AMBASSADORS

22 Students – 11 Muslims & 11 Christians

from 8 Cities (Medan, Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Yogyakarta, Solo, Surabaya, and Madura)

ANDREAS JONATHAN-CHRISTIAN-YOGYAKARTA



RISTON BATUARA-CHRISTIAN-YOGYAKARTA



AHMAD SHALAHUDIN-MUSLIM-YOGYAKARTA



M. FARIZ-MUSLIM-YOGYAKARTA



SONTIAR JUNITA-CHRISTIAN-YOGYAKARTA



NOVITA AYU DEWANTI-MUSLIM-SOLO



AYI YUNUS-MUSLIM-BANDUNG



OSWIN DARMAWAN-CHRISTIAN-BANDUNG



NURRAYYAN-MUSLIM-BANDUNG



ROVI'I-MUSLIM-BANDUNG



M. REZHA-MUSLIM-BANDUNG



APNI TONDANG-CHRISTIAN-MEDAN



TIALIN BARUTU-CHRISTIAN-MEDAN



SITI CHADIJAH-MUSLIM-MEDAN



ROBERT NEHE-CHRISTIAN-MEDAN



JENNY SARAGIH-CHRISTIAN-MEDAN



CECEP SOEPARDI-MUSLIM-JAKARTA



IMAN PURBA-CHRISTIAN-SURABAYA



M.NAZIR-MUSLIM-SURABAYA



ANIFATUL JANNAH-MUSLIM-SURABAYA



SASKYA VERONIKA-CHRISTIAN-SEMARANG



CHRISTINA NATALIA-CHRISTIAN-MADURA



OUR PROGRAM

Young Interfaith Peacemaker Community (YIPC) Indonesia celebrated World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) 2015 in two neighbouring countries - Malaysia & Singapore. There were series of activities done on 2nd to 7th February 2015; dialogues, interviews and interfaith tour.

Mon, 2 Feb	Tue, 3 Feb	Wed, 4 Feb	Thurs, 5 Feb	Fri, 6 Feb	Sat, 7 Feb
From Bandung, Jakarta, Medan To KL	Campaign @ Thaipusam Celebration @Batu Caves (09.00 – 12.00)	Check in Preparation	Worship Place Visitation (09.00 – 12.00)	Dialogue @Synagogue (09.00 – 11.00)	Dialogue with Singaporean Students @NUS (08.00 – 13.00)
Check in Preparation	Dialogue with Malaysian Students @UUIM (14.00 – 19.00)	Harmony in Action @SMU (14.00 – 16.00)	Dialogue @St Andrew Cathedral (14.00-16.00) Campaign @Citihall MRT (16.00 – 17.00)	Jumah Prayer & Dialogue @MUIS & Harmony Centre (13.00 – 17.00)	Dialogue with Indonesian Students @Embassy (14.00 – 20.00)
Dialogue with Indonesian Students @Gombak (16.00 – 20.00)	To Singapore (23.00-06.00)	Dialogue with IRO @IRO (17.00 – 20.00)	Dialogue with Singapore Leaders (19.00 – 22.00)	Free time @China town (18.00 – 20.00)	Free time @Orchard (21.00 – 23.00)

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

1. STUDENTS INTERFAITH DIALOGUE WITH INDONESIAN STUDENTS (PERSATUAN PELAJAR INDONESIA - PPI) IN KUALA LUMPUR

The first dialogue was held with Indonesian Students in collaboration with PPI Kuala Lumpur at the office of Pengurus Cabang Istimewa Nahdlatul Ulama (PCINU) on 2 February 2015, at 16.00 Malaysian time. There were about 30 Indonesian students in Kuala Lumpur attended. The program was opened with prayer and then continued by opening speech of PPI (Persatuan Pelajar Indonesia) in Malaysia and YIPC coordinator, Andreas Jonathan.



*Opening speech by Andreas Jonathan,
YIPC coordinator*

At 16.30, the first session was begun for "A Common Word" Dialogue. There were 4 presenters:

1. Ungaran Rashid from PPI presented Love of God from Muslim perspective;
2. Riston Batuara from YIPC presented Love of God from Christian perspective;
3. Rovi'i from YIPC presented Love of the Neighbour from Muslim perspective;
4. Tialin Barutu from YIPC presented Love of the Neighbour from Christian perspective.

*Love of God presentation by
Rashid and Riston*

Rashid said that Torah, Zabur and Injil were Holy Books to both Muslims and Christians, so that love of God with all of heart, mind and strength is the foundation of the dialogue between Muslims and Christians. He also added that God who Muslims worshiped was



the same with The One who The Prophet Ibrahim, Ishmail, Ishac and Jacob worshiped. Responding to Rashid, Riston explained that Christians believe God is love and He loves everyone. One of the evidence of God's love was the way out God gave to Adam and Eve when they fell into sin. The Bible (Jesus Christ) teaches if we love God then we also have to love our neighbours. That was called "Great Commandment".

Response from audience



After the presentation, there was response from the audience, mainly from PPI. Some of the questions:

- 1) what kind of activities that YIPC had done and the connection of the intention of WIHW with violence in the name of religions
- 2) Some Quranic verses that hard to be understood by lay people.

After the Ashar prayer, the dialogue was continued with "Love of the Neighbour". Rovi'i from YIPC presented about Islam and peace based on the name of Allah Ar- Rahman and Ar-Rahim (God is Love and Mercy). Finally, Tialin shared about Love of the Neighbour from the teaching of Jesus Christ from the Gospel about the good Samaritan. Jesus teaches us to love everybody, regardless one's background even our enemy.

The second session was **Scriptural Reasoning**, which the participants were divided into 10 groups. Every group has 2 facilitators from YIPC (1 Muslim and 1 Christian) and 2-3 students from PPI. In Scriptural Reasoning, everyone was actively involved in and experiencing the dialogue. The material of Scriptural Reasoning were taken from Cambridge University website. After that the program was closed around 20.00 by having dinner together in warm fellowship.

*The Love of the Neighbours presentation
by Tialin and Rovi'i*



Scriptural Reasoning in Small Groups



2. Students Interfaith Dialogue with Malaysian Students at IIUM (International Islamic University of Malaysia) or Universitas Antar Bangsa (UIA)

The second interfaith dialogue was held on 3 February 2015 at UUIM in collaboration with Islamic Renaissance Front (IRF) Malaysia, IIUM (International Islamic University of Malaysia) students and Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES) Malaysia.

It started at around 14.30 local time with welcome speech of Julia Sveshnikova) from IRF continued by introductory speech from FES Malaysia (Lim Tse Shaun) and YIPC (Ayi Yunus). The first dialogue was on "A Common Word" presented by four presenters:



1. Love of God from Muslim Perspective by Fakhratu Naimah bt Muhammad (IIUM)
2. Love of God from Muslim Perspective by Robert Larson Nehe (YIPC)
3. Love of the Neighbour from Muslim Perspective by Muh Fariz (YIPC)
4. Love of the Neighbour from Christian Perspective by Lim Tse Shaun (FES Malaysia)

There were around 50 participants of Christian and Muslim students making the dialogue went very well. The enthusiasm from the participants could be seen from responses.



After the first session, participants were divided into 10 small groups for Scriptural Reasoning.



Scriptural Reasoning in Groups



3. Dialogue with Inter-Religious Organization (IRO) Singapore



The Inter-Religious Organization, Singapore (IRO) was founded in 1949. Since its humble beginnings, as an official body under the Singapore government, IRO has worked quietly to promote peace and religious harmony in Singapore. It networked with organizations like the World Council on Religion and Peace (WCRP) and the Asian Council on Religion and Peace (ACRP).

Ten major religions are represented in the IRO such as: Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Baha'i Faith.

On 4 February 2015, YIPC visited IRO office to have dialogue with IRO leaders (Mr. Harban Singhs, Prof. Dr. Farid Allatas, and Mr. Foo Check Woo) and around 25 Singaporean students from National University of Singapore (NUS) Interfaith and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) PATH. Facilitated by Prof. Allatas, the dialogue went very dynamic discussing the challenges in interfaith relations in Singapore and Indonesia in general and also among the students.



Prof. Farid Alatas



Prof. Farid Allatas described religious tolerance in Singapore which had been run by the IRO Singapore in the society. Interfaith relation should not be done superficially but had to get deeper. Muslim-Christian dialogue are urgently needed and most important, though we should extend the dialogue to other religious groups too. However, to maintain religious tolerance in

Singapore and Indonesia has different approach because different context of the society and political situation. Both have some strengths as well as weaknesses that should learn to each other. The students from YIPC, NUS Interfaith and NTU PATH also share the experience promoting religious harmony among students on campus.



The dialogue was continued by having dinner together in warm fellowship and informal sharing.



4. Interfaith Dialogue with Singapore Religious Leaders

“Prospects and Challenges about interfaith relationship in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore)”



On Thursday 4 Feb 2015, we had our 4th Interfaith Dialogue. This time we met some religious leaders in Singapore, mainly Christians and Muslims. The topic that was discussed was **“Prospects and Challenges about interfaith relationship in Southeast Asia”** with focus on 3 countries: Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

The dialogue was attended by around 20 leaders from Singapore and few Malaysians. There are 4 speakers presented their views:

1. Andreas Jonathan from YIPC presented on Indonesian Christian perspective
2. Ayi Yunus from YIPC presented on Indonesian Muslim perspective
3. Norani Abu Bakar from The Blue Ribbon presented on Malaysian view
4. Muhammad Imran from Leftwrite Center Singapore



The dialogue was very dynamic with many responses from the audience, both on historical background of the Muslim – Christian relation and also contemporary issues in the three countries. Some aspects common in the presentations were the historical baggages that informed Christian-Muslim relations in the Malay-Indonesian world, and how religion was utilised in socio-political struggles that impacted relations between Christian and Muslim communities. The type of theological orientation too was raised and discussed as a factor in shaping how each community viewed the Other. One important aspect acknowledged was the impact and consequence that religious resurgence (dakwah & evangelism of the 1970s onward) had over the community of believers. Changing demographic was also discussed, with the call to invest and develop more of the younger generation.

5. Student Interfaith Dialogue with Singaporean Students at National University of Singapore (NUS)



On Saturday, 7 February 2015 morning, at Shaw Foundation Building NUS, YIPC in collaboration with Department of Malay Studies NUS and Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES) Singapore held a Student Interfaith Dialogue with around 50 Singaporeans students both Christians and Muslims as the 5th dialogue we had on WIHW.



Prof. Nur Aisah Abdulrahman

In the opening ceremony, Prof. Nur Aisah Abdulrahman, the head of NUS Department of Malay Studies welcome very warmly YIPC and all participants. Andreas Jonathan represented YIPC continued by explaining the purpose of WIHW and Interfaith Dialogue.

The first session was dialogue on "A Common Word" with four presenters:

1. Loving God from Muslim Perspective by Fadiyah Johari (NUS/Malay Studies)
2. Loving God from Christian Perspective by Iman Pasu Purba (YIPC)
3. Loving the Neighbour from Muslim Perspective by Muh Nasir (YIPC)
4. Loving the Neighbour from Christian Perspective by Amanda (NUS/FES)

Fadiyah Johari explained that loving God is talking about life, not just feeling or thinking. It is shown from our obedience as proof of our love. One of examples is to love God's creatures and get to know Asma Allah.



Fadiyah Johari

Iman Pasu Purba

Muhammad Nazir

Amanda

Iman Pasu Purba explained that God loves us before we love Him, by giving us the Holy Sacrifice through Jesus Christ. Because God has loved us so much so we can love Him with all of our heart, mind and soul.

Muhammad Nazir explained how to love others in Muslim perspectives. He shared some of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) examples on how to love the enemies.

Finally, Amanda shared the example from the Gospel about the good Samaritan and her own experience to love her two non-Christian friends.



Response from audience

dialogue and scriptural reasoning.

The audience was very enthusiastic to respond the presentation. It was a deep dialogue in practical experience as well as in theological level.

Next session was Scriptural Reasoning in small groups. All the participants were enthusiast and gave positive response. For most of them, it was the first experience to attend an interfaith



Scriptural Reasoning in Groups



6. Student Interfaith Dialogue with Indonesian Students in Singapore at Indonesian Embassy in Singapore

The Indonesian government was very supportive towards YIPC WIHW program, showed by giving permission to use the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to be used as the venue of our last Interfaith Dialogue during the week as well as providing dinner for the participants.

This dialogue took place in Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, on 7 February from 3 to 8 pm. It was attended by around 40 students of Indonesian Christians and Muslims who studying in Singapore (mainly NUS and NTU).

Mr. Ridwan Hassan represented the Ambassador opened the program after opening speech from YIPC (Ayi Yunus). In his speech, Mr. Hassan appreciated the initiative taken by YIPC and even challenged YIPC to extend its presence for bigger regions. He also emphasized that interfaith dialogue is a must because it is *sunnatullah*. "Differences come from God and we have to appreciate and respect one another. We have to try to find positive values.." he said.

Mr. Ridwan Hassan



First session was "A Common Word Dialogue" which was facilitated by Ahmad Shalahudhin, YIPC member from Yogyakarta. There were 4 presentators:

1. Bimo Ari (NTU student) presented Love of God from Muslim perspective
2. Jenny Saragih (YIPC) presented Love of God from Christian perspective
3. Nurrayyan (YIPC) presented Love of the Neighbour in Muslim perspective
4. Wieky Joe (NUS student) presented Loving of the Neighbour from Christian perspective.

L to R: Wieky, Ari, Ahmad (moderator), Jenny, Rayyan



In his presentation, Bimo Ari explained who is God and how to love Him in Islamic teaching. *La illa ha illallah* is the *syahadat* that confessed by every Muslim that there is no god but Allah. It means that Allah is the owner of this world and the only one who deserves worship. Loving God is a must in every condition.

Jenny explained that Christians based on the Holy Bible also believe in only One God, not three, though the existence of God as revealed in the Torah is with the His Word and Spirit. God is love and He loves human being first. It was proven by the coming of Jesus as the Word of God that became flesh to sacrifice his life for all humanity.

Nurrayyan started her presentation with a concern that many Muslims have misunderstanding towards loving God and loving the neighbor. Many Muslims seem loving God seriously but they do not care about their neighbour. This is showed for instance so many Muslims want to go for Hajj but they never take care their poor neighbor. We should show our love to our neighbor if we say we love God. That was modeled by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in his life.

Lastly, Wieky exposed the principals of loving the neighbor from the Bible (1 John 4: 7-13). He presented 3 points: 1) Why should we love our neighbour? Answer: because God has first loves us; 2) How do we love each other? Answer: sacrificial love as God has shown in Jesus Christ.; 3) How can we continuously love one another? Answer: God's Spirit leads and enables us to love our neighbour.

After the responses from the audience, all participants were divided into 10 small groups, mixed Christian and Muslim for Scriptural Reasoning. They discuss about "Women and Equality" from Gospel of John 8:2-11 and QS Ali Imran 3:35-43. Everyone in the group was very excited because it was their first experience in Scriptural Reasoning. One of the participants said, "At first, i felt awkward to talk about religion but through this event, I realize it is awesome to know others with different faith by talking about faith experience."



After the Scriptural Reasoning, we had a warm fellowship with dinner together. We thank God we are able to finish all dialogues and programs during this WIHW very well and have been blessing to the people we met. We hope it will be a trigger for a new movement among the students to get involved in interfaith relation and dialogue.



Scriptural Reasoning in Groups

