World Interfaith Harmony Week was celebrated in Sao Paulo, February 12, at the Indian Cultural Center. The event was realized with the partnership of the following organizations: Universal Peace Federation (UPF), International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Brazilian Association for the Freedom of Religion and Citizenship (ABLIRC), the Inter-Faith band Soul of Peace and Indian Cultural Center (ICC) who offered the auditorium.

Each guest speakers had around two or three minutes to share an interfaith message.

Mr Rafael Espadine representing the ICC gave the opening words welcoming the participants, congratulated the audience for coming even though we are in the holiday season just before the carnival.

Rev Christian Lepelletier UPF vice-president and representing the Unification Movement spoke the importance of the Inter-faith harmony as the first condition for world peace.

Dr Samuel Gomes de Lima ABLIRC president, spoke about the importance to defend the religious freedom right.

Mahesh Mahesvara, ISKCON Interfaith secretary and Soul of Peace band founder, said we belong to one human family independent of our religious faith.

Prabhu Prana Natha Das, Sao Paulo ISKCON director;

Bishop Marcelo Rezende, Liberal Catholic Church;

Thiago Rapsys representing the Demolay Order youth movement;

Mauricio Hondaku, Pure Land Boudhism, Shishu Otani Order;

Sheikh Mohamad Bukai, theologian from the Islamic National Union;

Juliana Vilarinho, Brahma Kumaris;

Pr Eliel Leonardo, Assembly of God in Guarulhos;

João Signorelli, actor playing Mahatma Gandhi;

Toninho Macedo, Abaçaí Culture and Revelando Sao Paulo director;

Babalorisa Diego de Aira and Tata Matamotoride, Candomble;

all agreed that is very important to meet and to build bridges between the diverse cultures and religions, and Brazil can be an example of harmony for the world.

The interfaith “Soul of Peace” band is a unique model practicing interfaith cooperation between musicians presented several songs composed by them based on universal values found among all religions, like respect, tolerance and love others….etc.