

UNDERSTANDING ONENESS OF GOD; A DOSAGE OF PEACE AND HARMONY

Adzhar J. Madjid

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines – “Understanding Oneness of God; a Dosage of Peace and Harmony”, is this year’s theme of Interfaith Dialogue. On its third year of implementation encapsulating various faiths in coming up together to build lasting and peaceful society especially in Mindanao, Youth Da’wah for Peace (YDP) with co-convenor organization the United Religions Initiative (URI) – Mindanaw Peace Garden successfully extended its advocacy to Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City held on February 2, 2015.

The initiative highlighted the importance of Inter-religious dialogue of a common ground in order to achieve peace and harmony. A way to recognize all religions having common spiritual goals or common foundation of their spiritual principles. Thus, the organizers and partners had convened more than two hundred audience coming from various faiths denomination aiming to foster world peace, harmony, and understanding through education and dialogue; to discover and build upon the common threads of all religion and spiritual paths of the local community and the world; to call attention to the harmony and spiritual principle and the oneness of the world religion and to emphasize that religion is the motivating force for world unity and to encourage everyone to conduct the same module or at least come up with awareness campaign promoting the ideals of World Religion Day and World Interfaith Harmony Week.



Turkish National join the Interfaith Forum.

“I hope this initiative will provide focal point from which all people of goodwill will be able to recognize the common values we hold to outweigh the differences we have, and thus it will provides us a strong dosage of peace and harmony to our community” exclaim on his synthesis statement by Adzhar Madjid, YDP Chairman and the project convener of this initiative. Mr. Madjid is also the Chairman of



Interfaith Café; participants roaming.

Muslim Youth Council, a co-sponsoring organization that help facilitate the gathering through its dedicated volunteers. Dr. Noemi Medina, URI MPG focal person and co-convenor since first implementation in 2013 stated the role of the youth in peace building on her opening remarks. “I believe this kind of activity, if continued from year to year, will develop youth leaders who would eventually take responsible roles in building a community of communities where people live as one, in peace and harmony regardless of religious, economic, social and cultural orientations” she explained.

Many of the supporters of Interfaith Dialogue in the local region includes Dr. Mehmet Derindag, President of Risalei Nur Institute Philippines and the guest speaker that tackled about the Oneness of God in Islamic perspective and Mr. Alejandro Burias, a Baha’i Community speaker in Mindanao and a former professor at Mindanao State University who also discussed



Different messages for peace written in the PeaceBook Wall.

the Oneness of God in Baha'i perspective, continuously supports Interfaith Dialogue since 2014 when they first received the good news anent the initiatives of building bridge of peace among diverse religions that do not confront one another. "God has created us, made us to different nations, different tribes, in order for us to know each other and knowing each other is the first step to love each other." Dr. Derindag explained.

It is also the hope of this year's interfaith to address current issues that our society especially in Mindanao had been through. The call for all out peace has been the group advocacy. "The most important thing is that we have One God. We believe in the same God. And for us, the Catholic, for us peace is God's gift." Fr. Gevanne Quibol told the audience when a discussion on the peace process in Mindanao addressed.

More identified partners added to the group initiatives this year, whereas other former partners are doing their interfaith dialogue on a separate schedule. These institutions includes Muslim Youth



The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day-Saints, been a partner since 2013 observed WIHW by conducting a symposium on "Dialogue of the Hear" on Feb. 7, 2015.

Council Cagayan de Oro, Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao based in Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, Mindanao University of Science and Technology, Cagayan de Oro College, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology Muslim Students Association, MSU IIT Youth Chain of Peace, United Church of Christ in the Philippines based in Iligan City, Baha'i Community of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro and Liceo de Cagayan University Muslim Students Association.

The team is targeting a more wide-range of participation especially the youth sector in 2016 Interfaith Dialogue. "The possibility of coming up a Youth Interfaith Dialogue Camp is of possibility next year," Mr. Madjid told the organizers during the evaluation. "With proper planning and coordination, for the sake of peaceful Mindanao, I believe we can do it, In God's Wills" he added.

PHOTO GALLERY

