



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

# TO PROMOTE TOLERANCE AMONG DIFFERENT FAITHS IN AMBON, MALUKU

## TOLERANCE AND PEACE EDUCATION FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOP

Nusa Laut and Ambon  
30 January — 7 February 2015



The Asia Foundation



UNITED  
NATIONS



World Interfaith  
Harmony Week

## TOLERANCE AND PEACE EDUCATION FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOP

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**Nusa Laut and Ambon, 30 January – 7 February 2015**

*“World Interfaith Harmony Week celebrates the principles of tolerance and respect for the other that are deeply rooted in the world’s major religions. The observance is also a summons to solidarity in the face of those who spread misunderstanding and mistrust.”*

**Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

Message for World Interfaith Harmony Week

In the year 1999, conflict between the Islamic and Christian communities broke out in the Maluku Islands<sup>1</sup> (Eng: Moluccas [/*mə'ʌkəz*]) – a province in eastern Indonesia, consisting of 1,450 islands. One of the most tragic consequences of conflict experienced is the division between the Muslim and Christian communities. As a result, in Maluku, especially in Ambon and the surrounding islands, villages are divided into being Muslim and Christian villages. Unfortunately, even schools are separated in this way, despite the fact that they belong to the Government. Almost all State Schools as well as the teachers and students are labelled and divided as “Islam” and “Christian”. The outcome of this division is a strained or almost no relationship between the Muslim and Christian students and teachers for almost fifteen years. This is truly sad, especially because, since the colonial days of the Dutch, the people of the islands of Maluku were known to be multi-religious and multi-cultural where interfaith harmony between villages was part of daily life, and well-known to the whole world.

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1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy15BcK7IFl>



Christians and Muslims in Ambon, Indonesia, have relearned how to live together after a 1999 - 2002 war killed 5,000 people and displaced half a million.

One example of harmony between life and religion in the Maluku islands, was, through a tradition called “*pela gandong*” where, each Muslim or Christian in one village has a family relative (*gandong*) in another village. Hundreds of years ago ‘this relative’

originally was their blood brother, separated only because they were divided according to their religion. Nevertheless, they still felt connected to one another as brothers and sisters. The word, “*pela,*” is the same as the Malay word “*bela,*” which means to defend. The primary purpose of the *pela* is to protect. A field inventory conducted in all the villages of Ambon, has found that almost all the people of those villages have a trust relationship, either in the form of *pela* or *gandong* with other villages on the island of Ambon. Unfortunately, not



Ambon and the surrounding islands

a trace of this kind of relationship is experienced today between the villages inhabited by the Muslim and Christian communities.

For the last three years, The Asia Foundation has been working for Peace building with the Ambon Reconciliation and Mediation Center of the State Institute of Islamic Studies (ARMC IAIN), Ambon. The Programs have been focusing on

creating teachers who can become agents of peace, religious tolerance, and harmony in schools. We call them *peace makers*. There are more than forty nine teachers from both religions from around thirty schools who have followed programs in peace education with all kinds of knowledge and skills needed – like multiculturalism, interfaith dialogue, value and peace education and *live in* (i.e. experiencing living in the homes and communities of people whose religions are other than their own). These Programs have been given mainly by ARMC IAIN Ambon with The Asia Foundation. To help design the programs they have collaborated with several NGOs and Universities namely, Paramadina Foundation, The University of Paramadina, the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture (CSRC), The State University of Islam (UIN), The Institute for the Study of Religions and Philosophy (LSAF), and the Association of Living Values Education (ALIVE) Indonesia.

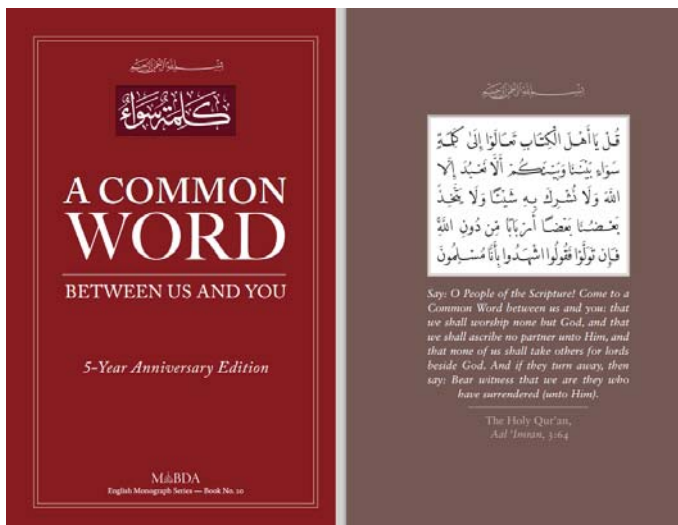
For the past three years these programs have been given on a regular basis as a twelve day-intensive workshop, live-in programs and working together in schools. These have created teachers who have made real changes in their schools. Basic values for interfaith and harmony like peace, cooperation, freedom, happiness, honesty, humility,



*The Process of “defending my brother” (pela gandong) at the festival for World Interfaith Harmony Week on Nusa Laut Island, Central Maluku, 1 February, 2015.*



*One of the Living Values Activities at Saparua Island*



*This book became the basis of World Interfaith and Harmony Week 2015 on Island of Nusa Laut and Ambon, as well as the main material for reflections by the participants of the workshop.*

love, respect, responsibility, simplicity, tolerance and unity (the twelve “living values education” values<sup>2</sup>) have been made active in their schools with the sole aim of creating Peace in School– beginning with change in the self, change in the school, and then change in the community.

The purpose of the program was to provide guiding principles and tools for the development of the whole person, recognizing that the individual is composed of physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual

dimensions. The aims were to:

- Help individuals think about and reflect on different basic interfaith and harmony values and the practical implications of expressing them in relation to themselves, others, the school, the community, and the world at large.
- Deepen understanding, motivation and responsibility with regard to making positive personal and social choices.
- Inspire individuals to choose their own personal, social, moral, and spiritual values and be aware of practical methods for developing and deepening them.
- Encourage educators as “peace makers” to look at education as providing students with a philosophy of peace, interfaith and harmony, thereby facilitating their overall growth, development, and choices so they may integrate themselves into the community with respect, confidence, and purpose.

2 <http://www.livingvalues.net/>

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After three years of conducting these programs, The Asia Foundation has taken the initiative to work together with ARMC IAIN Ambon to gather again these forty nine “peace-maker” teachers to further ideas of interfaith, tolerance and harmony through a program for Tolerance and Peace Education conducted in World Interfaith Harmony Week (2015) with the theme “Love of God or the Good and Love of the Neighbor”. Using these two themes the document “A Common Word” is the focus of the festival and workshop of World Interfaith Harmony Week in the context of building peace on Ambon islands.

### **MARTHA CHRISTINA TIJAHAHU INTERFAITH DAN HARMONY FESTIVAL**



*The opening of “Martha Christina Tjihahu” Interfaith and Harmony Festival on Nusa Laut Island, Central Maluku, 1 February 2015 by the Maluku Governor, represented by his expert staff.*

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Martha Christina Tjihahu (1800-1818) is the heroine of Ambon and the surrounding islands. She is known for her perseverance and courage in opposing the Dutch in Colonial times. From her were born life values of the people of Maluku. The Festival on 30 January 30–1 February 2015, strengthened the values of peace and religious tolerance. It was held on the Island of Nusa Laut, Central Maluku, the place of Martha’s birth. All the villages and interfaith communities on the island were involved , sharing and cooperating



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### A Common Word Perspective

This perspective of “A Common Word” (ACW) is very relevant in Ambon as the proportions of Muslims and Christians there are almost 50/50. This balance in population of Muslims and Christians makes the value of working together there very important based on the a common ground between the two religions, Islam and Christianity. Because of this, the workshop is designed using the perspective of ACW to build tolerance and peace among the participants.

with one another, in both ethnic and religious harmony with “A Common Word” perspective.



*Dialogue among the village leaders (“kings”) about the process of peace on Nusa Laut island.*

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## WORKSHOP ON TOLERANCE AND PEACE EDUCATION

The workshop done in the light of A Common Word (ACW), was designed to celebrate three years of effort to vitalize the values of tolerance, interfaith, multiculturalism and peace education in schools. The Workshop was for three days, i.e. Monday until Wednesday, 2 – 7 February, 2015 at The Natsepa Hotel, Ambon – a cool and beautiful place very suitable for sharing among ‘peace-maker’ teachers.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr Abidin Wakano, the Head of the Committee, and Dr Hasbollah Toisuta, the Rector of The Institute of Islamic Studies (IAIN) Ambon. Since 1999, these two figures have been involved in the peace-building processes in Maluku. The key-note address was given by Prof. Dr Syamsul Arifin, the Director of the Center for the Study of Religions and Multiculturalism (PUSAM), in the Muhammadiyah University, Malang, East Java. Professor Syamsul underlined the importance of rebuilding tolerance in the Indonesian context. He mentioned that the document, “A Common Word”, is very relevant and important to develop in Indonesia, a plural society, especially on the islands of Ambon, whose Islam/Christian composition is almost fifty – fifty percent.

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The first session introduced the perspective of “A Common Word” to the participants. This was done by two interfaith activists, Dr Gerardette Philips and Dr Budhy Munawar-Rahman. Gerardette Philips is a Roman Catholic sister of the RSCJ order, a Vatican Representative for interfaith Dialogue in Indonesia, whereas Budhy Munawar-Rachman is a University lecturer, speaker and writer on tolerance, pluralism, religious freedom and human rights. Budhy is now working also as a program officer for The Asia Foundation on the issues of minority rights, and religious freedom in Indonesia.



*Dr. Budhy Munawar-Rachman and Dr. Gerardette Philips presented their understanding of A Common Word.*

Love of God or the Good and Love of the Neighbor as fundamental values for peace, is the common ground for interreligious harmony in Indonesia, especially in Ambon. These two important “A Common Word” values were clarified more in the workshop concretely by the Living Values Education (LVE) as cooperation, freedom, happiness, honesty, humility, love, peace, respect, responsibility, simplicity, tolerance, and unity. This was done in groups assisted by the LVE facilitators,



Abidin Wakano, from IAIN Ambon; Jacky Manuputty from The Protestant Church of Maluku (GPM); Muqowim from The State Islamic University (UIN) Yogyakarta; Gerardette Philips from the Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung; Rani Anggraeni Dewi, from the University of Paramadina, Jakarta; Iqbal Hasanuddin from the Institute for the Study of Religions and Philosophy (LSAF), Jakarta; Ihsan Ali-Fauzi from Center for Religion and Democracy (PUSAD) Paramadina Foundation; and Budhy Munawar-Rachman from The Asia Foundation.





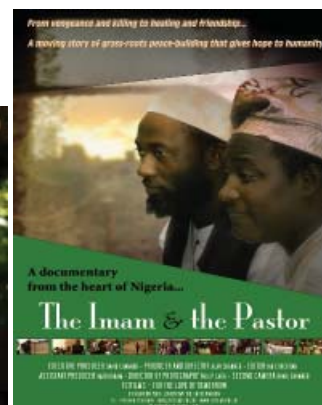
*Seated in front: Ihsan Ali-Fauzi, Jacky Manuputty, Abidin Wakano, and Rifky Husain giving inspiration to the participants of the workshop on the role of Religious Values in building Peace.*

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Two documentary films, *Provocators for Peace* and *The Imam and the Pastor*, were used to help further discussion. *Provocators for Peace* is a documentary film made from the live-in experiences of the teacher participants (some of the 'actors' were present!) where a Muslim teacher lived for two days in the home of a Christian family and vice-versa. This was the first time for the teachers to meet one another in this friendly and safe way after fifteen years of division! The love and joy of being together as one family, after their initial fear of their differences of food, life-style etc, was wonderful to behold! This film was made two years ago and now on watching it, together, the Muslim-Christian teacher participants were able to review the process and the results of tolerance and peace education of over three years. They could see for themselves and appreciated the steps (however small) made by them for peace. The documentary film, *Provocators for Peace*, was awarded the Eagle Award on Metro TV, Jakarta, in November 2013.

The film *The Imam and the Pastor* was also studied deeply. This film originates from Nigeria where conflict between Muslims and Christians was very similar to that experienced in Ambon or Maluku.

The participants will continue to apply the values of A Common Word through understanding the situations of conflict and peace in Ambon as well as, learning and finding inspiration from the efforts for peace done in Nigeria.



*Participants at a workshop learning and experiencing building peace in Nigeria by taking inspiration from Imam Asyafa and Pastor James via their the documentary film: the Imam and the Pastor.*

## Religion and the Peacebuilding Process in Ambon and Maluku

*The Imam and the Pastor* is a documentary film which relates the effort of Imam Asyafa and Pastor James, two religious leaders, formally enemies, who reconciled their conflicts and together spread values of peace in one town in Nigeria. They then created interfaith institutions and committees campaigning throughout Nigeria, then Africa, and finally, the world. This film of 39 minutes' duration, also shows the dynamics involved in building peace in a conflict area. Alan Channer, the director of this



*Pastor Jacky Manuputty Sharing "Carita Orang Basudara"(The Story of Two Brothers) – Stories of Peace in Maluku with students from Muslim and Christian Schools in Ambon.*



*Budhy Munawar-Rachman with the two teachers starring in the film "Provokers of Peace", Yusuf and Heny, at the WIHW workshop in Ambon, 2-4 February, 2015.*

film, beautifully reveals the joy and sorrow experienced by both Asyafa and James when they forgive each other, creating the faith to live together in peace.

Very similar to *The Imam and the Pastor, Provocators for Peace* is a documentary film about peacemakers in Ambon. The film, produced by 2 young Ambonese, Rifky Husain and Ali Madi Salay, shows a way of promoting values of peace.

The participants, watching the scenes of the two school teachers living-in, (who were also in that audience at the workshop) laughed and cried in joy. Seeing these two teachers as agents of peace they felt very optimistic

looking at the future of life with religions in Ambon. It wasn't a surprise to learn that *Provokers of Peace* won *Eagle Awards Documentary Competition in November 2013*.

The discussion of these two films on peace was led by Ihsan Ali-Fauzi, Pastor Jacky, Imam Abidin, as well as the director of this film *Provocators for Peace*, Rifky Husain. Pastor Jacky Manuputty and Imam Abidin Wakano shared their experiences as agents of peace now in Ambon, as, like Imam Assyafa dan Pastor James, Pastor Jacky dan Imam Abidin are religious leaders who have once been like enemies and involved in conflict.

For Pastor Jacky, the first stage of peace-building is to forgive. Following that, is to build faith in the midst of one's community in conflict. For sure, doing these two steps isn't easy and is quite a process. Pastor Jacky received the Taneumbaum Peacemaker Award in 2012.

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In Nigeria we discovered Imam Assyafa and Pastor James. In Ambon we met Pastor Jacky and Imam Abidin. They are Provokers of Peace as well as religious leaders. From them we can learn how to live our lives in peace with our religions without having to hate and harm those of other faiths.

### **Mindfulness for Peace**

At the beginning and the end of each day during the workshop sessions called “Visualizing a Peaceful and Harmonious World” were facilitated by Sr Helen Quirin, Rani Anggraeni Dewi and Muqowim from the Association of Living Values Education (ALIVE) Indonesia. These two sessions used “an inside-out approach” to make our world a better world. With visualization, the participants created the peaceful world so desired building a relationship again with their true inner selves. At the end of the program they could acknowledge that peace must always begin from oneself and radiate out to those around – to family, society, our nation and to the world.



*“Visualizing a Peaceful and Harmonious World” Activity*

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## Being Indonesian without Discrimination

The session “Indonesia without Discrimination” was facilitated by Elza Peldi Taher and Anick HT from Denny J.A Foundation for Indonesia without Discrimination. Discrimination denies



social participation or human rights to categories of people based on prejudice. This includes treatment of an individual or group based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or social category, “in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated”. This session was to relate the values already explored over the two days with a very important key word in building peace, namely, “non-discrimination”. The problem or issue of discrimination in Indonesia is still a very big one. In this session the participants moved beyond Ambon, to Indonesia and then to the world and looked at conflict that occurred and that still occurs due to discrimination. Discrimination in any form is sure to be a source of conflict and a very big obstacle to peace. Several forms

of discrimination which still occur in Indonesia and the world, such as ethnic, race, religion, beliefs, ideology, and gender were explored. Discrimination towards these minorities has resulted in several forms of exclusiveness socially, including exclusivity in religion and ethnic beliefs which, in Indonesia is still a big problem which needs to be addressed. In 2012, incidents of violence against religious minorities were frequent and occasionally deadly.



In the session “peace building” the participants received a book *Carita Orang Basudara* (Stories of Two Brothers) which is filled with efforts of different souls to build peace again in Maluku. Pastor Jacky Manuputty and Ihsan Ali-Fauzi, editors of this book, shared briefly its contents with the teachers, of how, in 1999, in the midst of heart-rending conflict and sorrow, when many were trapped and “forced” to be directly or indirectly involved in the violence and amuck, some, in their own way kept at a distance, critical of

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such conflict. Along with this, they began to “fight” for peace. *Carita Orang Basudara* is filled with their stories fighting for peace, instead of getting involved in the conflict.

According to Jacky and Ihsan, this documentation is also so that each one’s experience, a personal witness, doesn’t just disappear into “thin air”. It contains valuable lessons which can be disseminated by these teachers, “peace makers” in their schools and communities. This book was presented to the people of Maluku, and Indonesia, as a lesson in peace. According to them both, it is time now for good stories, stories of peace (not conflict and violence), stories of peaceful heroes, to be heard from Maluku.

## EVALUATING THE PROGRAM

The evaluation of the program “The Most Significant Change” was done in the last session. Time was given to reflect on these years of peace building with special reference to the workshop on Tolerance and Peace Education, then each one shared his or her experience of their “Most Significant Change”. From these stories of change in themselves, each one could

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200 school students play music, sing, dance, read poetry, celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week on Natsepa beach, Ambon, with their teachers who have just followed the Workshop on Peace and Tolerance education.

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see the value of a workshop on Tolerance and Peace Education in three days dedicated to the World Interfaith Harmony Week. These days will certainly have a ripple effect!

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*Irfan Abubakar is facilitating the evaluation of the program*

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This tolerance and peace education workshop give a chance to the participants to share their “change” or “success stories”. As many as 40 teachers from Ambon and other islands shared their experiences and inspiring stories, including those when teaching their students the values of peace and tolerance at school. They told stories of social change, reforms in their way of teaching, and progress

in religious tolerance at both school and in the children’s social environment. They also told of their own refusal to accept all forms of suppression, violence, social imbalance and intolerant attitudes at school. These stories were important to hear as contributions in refusing intolerant attitudes and violence in the name of religion, both at school and in the society. Such practical examples of peace education, developed by these teachers, inspires and shows us how the mechanism of prevention can overcome all forms of violence.

It also appears that the teachers who have followed this program of peace education grow and become teachers who are loved very much by their students, who inspire them with a method of learning which they have developed from practicing peace education.

The teachers express strong enthusiasm, sharing their success stories and said that the peace education program brought huge benefit to them. According to them, it enabled them to change themselves, to become peace-makers and to develop a culture of peace at school.

From the sharing of these teachers are now variety examples and models which can be used to achieve the aim of peace education, ie, to produce students who are not only clever (high in IQ) but also high in (EQ) values, and social skills like peace, happiness, creativity, harmony, kindness, caring, and sharing. In other words, according to these teachers, the participative

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approach taught in peace education, is more effective, because it not only stimulates the cognitive domain, but also the affective and psychomotoric domain.

For example, Risnawati Latusen, or “Ris”, a biology teacher at Salahutu High School, Ambon, said “After following the peace education program, values have now become a regular part of my teaching activities. Honestly, before, I was without direction, thinking what really is my aim as a teacher? I am truly so grateful to all involved in this workshop. Through peace education, I now understand better how students’ education should be developed.

Besides Risnawati, Lebrina Novita Abaulu, or “Novi” – an economics teacher and guidance councillor of grade 9 at Salahutu Junior High School, Ambon – sees educational institutions as the most accurate media to improve the mindset of a person. At school she encourages students to practice the virtues of tolerance, solidarity, loyalty and co-operation in order to harmonize religions in the school environment.



*Participants sharing “The Most Significant Change” stories of the peace education programs in their schools*

This is something she must do, to restore trust amongst students who experienced trauma as very small children in the riots of 1999. Those peaceful values develop their self-respect, freeing them from the traumas of their traumatic past of conflict. To develop these peaceful values, Novi has developed one basic value for them - ie tolerance. According to her, this is important, because students usually eat together at school, and, in the past Muslim students would refuse to eat food cooked by Christians and vice versa. Novi says to them that “All human beings are the same in the eyes of God, and this food is a gift and blessing from God. If you don’t want to eat this, it means that you are not thankful for the grace of God.” Since then they have changed and they all now eat together. Risnawati and Novi are a few of the many teachers who participated in the peace education programs.

Generally, the teachers of Ambon and surroundings admitted that until now there had been crises in their teaching methods, and still felt a little confused as to how to empower the values in theirs and their students’ lives. And, it had been quite a significant obstacle. They



also admitted that, in fact, these values were already in their schools, but it was just how to find an accurate method to teach and implement these values in everyone’s daily life. Until then, most teachers were still using old teaching methods of “talk and chalk”, making the students quite bored. An effect of peace education was that these teachers began using practical participative methods of teaching.

Teachers also began using an inner-peace method (“mindfulness education”) of teaching. They invited their students to observe silence before beginning their lessons which calmed emotions, giving rise to more positive feelings, enthusiasm, and creativity in their studies. Students were not only studying the material of their lessons (IQ) but were also learning to handle their emotions much better. Peace education, according to Novi, raised both the emotional intelligence and spiritual intelligence of the students – so that a culture of peace was now truly growing in their schools.

#### 50 VIRTUES OF LOVE

Acceptance	Liking	Humble
Forgiveness	Helpful	Self-Respect
Compassion	Co-operative	Self-Esteem
Caring	Trusting	Self-Confident
Sharing	Sacrifice	Sustaining
Kindness	Surrender	Gentle
Giving	Believe in	Motherly
Loving	Appreciate	Angelic
Adoring	Value	Faithful
Respectful	Uplift	Loyal
Understanding	Support	Flexible
Empathy	Harmonious	Content
Sympathy	Thankful	Easy
Tolerant	Grateful	Protective
Accommodating	Generous	Responsible
Adjustable	Merciful	Balanced
Listening	Compassionate	Hopeful

From the workshop, participants learnt that from “Love” we can develop 50 virtues of love.

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## INTERFAITH AND HARMONY ART FOR PEACE

As a final closing event, around 200 students, from the Islamic and Christian Schools of the teachers present at the workshop participated to make a cultural event called “Interfaith and Harmony Art for Peace”. This festival brought with it a two- fold importance – first, it gave an opportunity for the teachers to put into practice their learnings of these days immediately after the workshop and second, both Muslim and Christian students came together since the conflict in 1999 – when, at that time, many of them were infants who felt directly the effects of the conflict and violence in their homes and community. Their scarred memories have begun a process of deep healing!

## FOLLOW UP



*Activists for peace and religious leaders agree that participating in World Interfaith Harmony Week will strengthen further the processes of peace on the islands of Maluku, Indonesia.*

On 5-7 February, 2015, after celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week with the community, teachers, and school students for 3 days, several activists for peace and religious leaders of Islam and Christianity got together to organize follow-up programs. Amongst them were, Dr Abidin Wakano, Sr Brigitta Renyaan, and Rudi Fofid, who, for these last 15 years have been initiating Peace programs in Maluku. In this meeting, a facilitator from Jakarta, Petrus Lakonawa, emphasized the importance of developing the values connected with love in

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religions as a basis for peace in Ambon. An agreement was made where 30 facilitators will be trained in Living Values Education (LVE) based on A Common Word, and during this year, 2015, all the islands of Ambon and Maluku will be introduced to the perspective of A Common Word for peace. They are committed to supporting the islands of Maluku as a “laboratory for peace”. They will also delve into the meaning of “A Common Word” in the traditions and cultures of Islam and Christianity on the islands of Ambon and Maluku.



*These Volunteers, youth activists for peace, had motivated the Festivals and Workshops for World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) on the Islands of Nusa Laut, Central Maluku, and Ambon, from 30 January - 7 February, 2015. They are the hope for building eternal peace in Maluku.*

## *The Most Successful Muslim-Christian Interfaith Initiative in History*

A Common Word offers a starting point for interfaith engagement and cooperation. Based around the principles of *Loving God and Neighbor*, A Common Word is built on the most solid theological grounds possible in Muslim and Christian scriptures, empowering different communities to work towards positive change.

[Learn more about our principles »](#)



*From the Festival and Workshop for Interfaith Interfaith Harmony Week 2015 in Ambon, with the theme “A Common Word”, embodying the spirit of peace-building in Maluku, many further programs for peace will continue throughout the world.*

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## PHOTO ESSAY

# WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

Within the framework of the initiative of World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) to spread an atmosphere of tolerance and peace in the world, The Asia Foundation, working with like-minded organizations, from 30 January – 7 February, 2015, held a festival and a workshop. The Festival held from 30 January – 1 February, 2015, was given the name “Martha Christina Tjihahu Festival of Interfaith and Harmony,” and the Workshop from 2 January – 5 February 2015 was titled “Tolerance and Peace Education”. These 2 big programs explored 2 values from “A Common Word” (ACW) Love of God or the Good and Love of the Neighbor.

These Festivals and Workshops were held in co-operation of The Asia Foundation and its colleagues - Yayasan Parakletos, Ambon; Ambon Reconciliation and Mediation Center – State Islamic University (ARMC – IAIN) Ambon; Center for the Study of Religion and Multiculturalism – Muhammadiyah University, Malang (PUSAM UMM); Institute for Religion and Philosophy (LSAF), Jakarta; Center for the Study of Religion and Culture – State Islamic University (CSRC UIN) Jakarta; Denny J.A. Foundation for Indonesia Without Discrimination; and Association of Living Values Education (ALIVE) Indonesia at Ubud, Bali.



*Government officers from the office of the Governor of Maluku along with Camat (leader of sub-district) and seven local “kings”(leader of villages) and facilitators of the Tolerance & Peace Program.*

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The Festival, held on the island of Nusa Laut, Central Maluku, was supported by the 7 regional head of village called “kings” there.

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The Workshop held in Hotel Natsepa, Ambon, involved 43 teachers from 30 schools from the islands of Ambon, of Central Maluku and Seram. The facilitators and resource people were - Dr Hasbollah Toisuta and Dr Abidin Wakano from the State Institute of Islamic



*As many 2.000 residents of the island of Nusa Laut received lunch to celebrate WIHW 2015. The Lunch served with traditional way called "makan patita"*

Studies of Ambon; Dr Budhy Munawar-Rachman from The Asia Foundation; Prof. Dr Syamsul Arifin from the Center for the Study of Religion and Multiculturalism – Muhammadiyah University, Malang (PUSAM UMM); Rani Anggareni Dewi, MA from Paramadina University; Helen Quirin MA from the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU), Jakarta; Dr Gerardette Phillips RSCJ from Parahiangan Catholic University, Bandung; Irfan Abubakar, MA dan Muchtadlirin, MA from the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture – State Islamic University (CSRC UIN) Jakarta; Iqbal Hasanuddin from the Institute for the Religion and Philosophy (LSAF), Jakarta. The majority of them are from the Association of Living Values Education (ALIVE), centered in Geneva, Switzerland and in Indonesia in Ubud, Bali. From this, the facilitators have learned to revitalize the values to develop tolerance, peace, multiculturalism, pluralism and human rights.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ON THE ISLAND OF NUSA LAUT**

As many as 5.000 packets of children's story books (a donation from Books for Asia) from The Asia Foundation were distributed to children from the 7 regions of Nusa Laut, ie, Titawaai, Abubu, Akoon, Amet, Nalahia, Sila, dan Leinit. These books will hopefully broaden the imagination and creativity of children making them brighter, keener students.



*Volunteers bring books to villages on the island of Nusa Laut.*



*A teacher narrates a story about peace and tolerance to Primary School students before distributing story books to them.*



*Distributing books to poor families on the island of Nusa Laut.*

### **Books Change Lives**

Books change lives. They sparkle with ideas and help shape students' imagination, critical thinking skills, and their understanding of the world. The Asia Foundation's Book for Asia donated 5,000 story books for World Interfaith Harmony Week 2015 to students, educators and local leaders in 7 districts on Nusa Laut island to empower current and future students with information - because we know, an educated population is better equipped to fight poverty, disease, injustice and instability.

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## **WELCOMING FACILITATORS FROM JAKARTA ARRIVING BY SPEEDBOAT ON AMET PIER, NUSA LAUT**



*Facilitators from Jakarta arriving in a speed boat from Ambon.*



*Facilitators welcomed with music and songs from Maluku.*



*Facilitators walk happily through a local farmer's fields to their guest house on Nusa Laut.*



*The people of the village of Ameth preparing their special local food.*



*Travelling to the festival by truck. Trucks are the only transport on the island of Nusa Laut.*



*Facilitators leave by truck for the Festival 20km away.*

The island of Nusa Laut is well-known to tourists from all over the world, who come to see its beautiful sea-gardens in Ameth, during the months of September til April. This island also has the national heritage of 2 Churches almost 200 years old, an old Fort, and a grand statue of Martha Christina Tijahahu. Besides that, its landscape is very beautiful with gardens and forests. Nusa Laut consists of the 7 regions of Sila, Leinitu, Nalahia, Ameth, Titawaai, Abubu and Akoon. Each region is ruled by a local traditional “king”.

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## THE OPENING OF THE “MARTHA CHRISTINA TIJAHAHU FESTIVAL”

“**Martha Christina Tijahahu** Festival of Interfaith and Harmony” was inaugurated on 31 January 2015 night, in Beverwijk Fort where the local heroine, Martha Christina Tijahahu, had been held until she died. The Festival was opened with music, singing, dances and lots of joy, including dancing together.



*Surrendering the flame to the Camat (head of the sub-district) to be carried through the 7 districts of Nusa Laut.*



*Festival Program: Singing songs from the Province of Maluku.*



*Elsye Syauta-Latuheru, head of the Festival Committee carrying the Flame for the Inauguration of the Program.*

### **Elsye Syauta-Latuheru**

Peace “activist” Elsy Syauta Latuheru says that a legacy of that former violence still persists today, causing small communal clashes and deterring individuals from socializing with those of different faiths. But Elsy has always believed that the younger generation in Maluku holds the key to stopping the cycle of conflict in Ambon and the surrounding islands. Through education, she hopes to change their mindset. “Young people are just victims of the earlier conflicts, and education — which has a long term effect — is one of the most important factors for changing their mindset,” Elsy said in an interview at a World Interfaith Harmony Week 2015 on Nusa Laut Island.





*School students on Nusa Laut dance a Malukan dance.*



*School students dancing a local dance on Nusa Laut*



*School students doing a traditional dance.*



*Lampion Festival to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week 2015 on the island of Nusa Laut*



*Local residents joyfully dancing together.*



*Residents attending the Festival program.*

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**Main Program of the Festival, 1 February 2015**



*Welcoming the Vice-Governor of Maluku.*



*Rudi Fofid, Malukan poet and cultural expert, reading poetry of Peace.*



*School students of Nusa Laut dancing a local Malukan dance.*



*School students dancing a local Malukan dance.*



*Flame dance by school students of Nusa Laut.*



*Andi Atis Manuhutu, an Ambonese singer celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week 2015 on the island of Nusa Laut*



*School students dancing a local Malukan dance.*



*School students painting Martha Christina Tjihahu in a competition.*



*Giving awards to the local "kings" of Nusa Laut.*



*Giving awards to the best performing artists at the Festival.*



*Lampion celebrations on the 2nd day of the Festival.*



*Joyful school students at the end of the Festival.*

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## Workshop on Tolerance and Peace Education

The Workshop which was followed by 43 school teachers was aimed at training them in understanding basic principles in building interfaith peace, especially in Islam and Christianity. They were introduced to A Common Word as a fundamental value for peace in Maluku. The program of 3 days consisted of activities like a workshop on A Common Word, practicing skills of peace-building, sharing experiences of peace-building during and after conflict, workshops on developing a non-discriminative attitude to build peace, introducing a “mindful(ness) awareness” approach towards peace education, skills in developing values of peace in the curriculum, and skills in evaluating the process of peace education. This 3-day Program concluded with “Art for Peace” where 200 Muslim and Christian students from the schools of the participants performed on Natsepa Beach, Ambon.



*Natsepa Hotel, where the Workshop was held.*



*Welcome address by Dr Abidin Wakano,  
Director Ambon Reconciliation and Mediation  
Center – State Islamic University (ARMC – IAIN)  
Ambon, Maluku*



*Introductory session with the participants  
of the workshop.*



*Speech by Dr Budhy Munawar-Rachman,  
Program Officer, The Asia Foundation*



*Speech by Dr Hasbollah Toisuta, Rector State  
Islamic University, Ambon, Maluku.*

*Keynote Speech by Prof. Dr  
Syamsul Arifin, Center for  
the Study of Religion and  
Multiculturalism, Muhammadiyah  
University, Malang, East Java.*

