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Report on Celebration of "The World Interfaith Harmony Week" at COMESA/LLPI

COMESA/LLPI, in collaboration with Euclid University, celebrated the "World Interfaith Harmony Week" on 3rd February 2016 at the COMESA/LLPI headquarters.

The objective of the celebration was to engage all interfaith groups at LLPI in a dialogue based on two common fundamental religious Commandments; "Love of God, and Love of the Neighbor", and extends these Commandments by adding "Love of the Good, and Love of the Neighbor" without nevertheless compromising any of their own religious tenets.

Participants were from different religious groups; Orthodox Christians, Protestants and Muslims.

Mr. Awlachew, who was the coordinator of the celebration, made brief statement about the objective of the meeting and introduced the Agenda of the meeting.

To avoid any communication gap, Dr. Tadesse Hailemariam also explained the objective in Amharic so that all the participants can clearly understand the objective.

Mr. Zewdu Kebede, Programs Coordinator of COMESA/LLPI, made a welcome address and opening remarks. Mr. Zewdu, during his opening remarks, said that this initiative will provide a platform for all people of goodwill, to discuss, appreciate and share the common values they hold, that far outweigh the differences they have, and constitute a basis for peace and harmony to their communities.

Mr. Awlachew also briefly explained about "Christians and Muslims in Ethiopia, Historical Perspective" that really shows the cohesiveness of the two major religions in Ethiopia.



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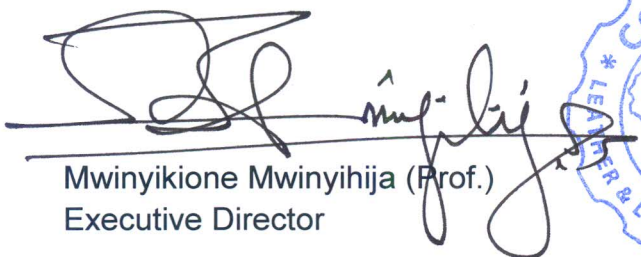
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Mr. Nicholas Mudungwe, while expressing his religious experiences, said that in any religious affair, the common objective is the same; to possess the heavenly world. He extended that "Love of God and Love of the Neighbor" is an all-encompassing phrase such that if we love God we do what God likes and we don't do anything that harms our neighbors. Mr. Nicholas also added that some people used to use religion to accuse others which is against the principle of all religions.

Mr. Shemsedin Nur Abdulaziz also commented that being a Muslim did not prevent him from collaborating and sharing with other religion believers. He used to be supported by people from different religions.

Mrs. Tibika also commented that when something bad happened around us, it is all our neighbors, irrespective of their religious outlook, who come and help us. She always respects the religious outlook of others and she emphasized that we should respect each other irrespective of our religious tents.

Finally, Mr. Zewdu Kebede handed over the print-out called the "A COMMON WORD between Us and You" to participants so that members can read and understand the whole idea of inter-religious harmony.


Mwinyikione Mwinyihija (Prof.)
Executive Director



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Participants' Say on the "World Interfaith Harmony Week"

"I love God and Love of My Neighbor!"

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

Mrs. Aster Shiferaw

I hope the Inter faith ceremony week was very good and positive feeling. From the beginning of history and my observation there are two major religions in Ethiopia that is Muslims and Christians.

Therefore, I respect all religion and make tolerance to each other. Finally I follow and implement the Love of God and Love of the Neighbour or Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour principles and apply them daily.

Mr. Mekonnen Yeshitila

It initiated me to think more about our common commandment Love of God and Love of Neighbors more than thinking about our religious differences. Thanks to the organizer & blessing to all"

Ms. Beza Jima



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"I feel that we all are human beings sharing the same values and common grounds and God is the origin of True Love....."

Mrs. Tigist H/Girogis

"The Week was observed at COMESA/LLPI on February 3, 2016. It was well attended. The gathering included Muslims, Christians of different denominations, and even Non-believers. The gathering met its objective, in that the views expressed proved that Ethiopians lived and will live in Harmony despite their different religious beliefs. For me, this was quite satisfying, and left me wishing that this is emulated by all the peoples in all parts of the World."

Mr. Zewdu Kebede



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