

## ***Celebrating 2021 World Interfaith Harmony Week***

### ***‘A Heaven in a Wild Flower Interreligious Dialogue on Nature’***

*Museum of World Religions, Taiwan*



#### ***Our Mission: Love Earth & Love Peace***

2021 is the third year for Museum of World Religions (MWR) to participate the World Interfaith Harmony Week. Twenty years ago, the museum was established since its founder Dharma Master Hsin Tao saw the world as a global family in which differences in religious beliefs ought not to lead division and disagreement.

As a platform promoting respect, tolerance and love, MWR invited representatives of several religions in Taiwan to introduce their own faith, using the World Religions Exhibition Hall as the background.

The topic this year ‘*A Heaven in a Wild Flower: Interreligious Dialogue on Nature*’ highlighted the serious situations on both the global environmental crisis and Covid-19. Everyone shared the teachings and spiritual treatments in each tradition.

## Golden Lobby, Museum of World Religions, Taiwan



The CEO of Museum of World Religions, Ven. Dr. Liao-yi emphasized the value of interfaith harmony and the power of collaboration. Ven. Dr. Liao-yi said, 'What we can do for all people and the environment is to use the power of interfaith understanding and the power of collaboration to love our planet – the Earth. The awakenings across faiths make us deeply connected to all lives and sentient beings and bring heavenly joy.'

Ven. Dr. Liao-yi (Museum of World Religions, CEO)



The representative of Daoism, Prof. Dr. Fong-Mao Lee talked about how Daoism help the pandemic and natural disasters.

Prof. Dr. Fong-Mao Lee (first from the left) (Daoism) and all participants



Krishna Baladeva, one of the members of International Society for Krishna Consciousness, stated that Lord Krishna helped human species to understand the purpose of life rather than to involve in atrocious activities.

Krishna Baladeva (Left one) (International Society for Krishna Consciousness)



Rev. Dr. Raphel Ling told the story of Jesus Christ and said, ‘When we are loved by the infinitive God, we should leave the narrow thinking behind so that we can live in harmony together.’

Rev. Dr. Raphel Ling (Chatholic, Chaplain of Fu Jen Catholic University)



Rabbi Leon Fenster introduce Judaism by singing the traditional prayers from Torah.

Rabbi Leon Fenster (Judaism, Taiwan Jewish Community)



Taipei Grand Mosque Imam Dr. Ibrahim Chao explained the duty of human beings assigned by God in Quran. He said that people had to live in peace with the creator and manage the world in a right way.

Imam Dr. Ibrahim Chao (Islam, Taipei Grand Mosque)



As for Sikhism, Dr. Ravinder Singh quoting” The Guru Granth Sahib” Page 8; “Air is our teacher, water our father and the great sacred earth is our mother”. It says that the purpose of human life is to achieve a blissful state in harmony with everything around them including other people, animals and nature.

Dr. Ravinder Singh (Sikhism)



Mr. Kiyoshi Shimada representing Shinto, specially making a film from Japan to sharing Shintoism; why they worship the wonderful state of nature. When people see and feel extraordinary and wonderful things, the power beyond humans, then respect and worship the natural.

Mr. Kiyoshi Shimada (Shinto) and his presentation



The joint president of International Buddhist Federation, Prof. Dr. Christie Yu-ling Chang shared the idea emptiness in Heart Sutra to show that we are all interdependent in the same world and everyone in Taiwan should keep the whole world in mind and pray for happiness for all.

Prof. Dr. Christie Yu-ling Chang (Buddhism, The joint president of International Buddhist Federation)





Hinduism representative Dr. Samir Mehndiratta quoting 6th century Kaniyan Poongunranar's poem to sharing the idea of Hinduism culture seeing the harmony: "Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world."

Dr. Samir Mehndiratta (Right one) (Hinduism)



After the sharing, all representatives had lunch together and made the connection of everyone stronger.

The event is not open to public because of the Covid-19 situation. All sharing from these religions are recorded and has premiered on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> on various social media, including YouTube and Facebook.

Although we may be nourished by different faith traditions, the essence – love is the same. People can pass through all the difficulties together by support each other no matter who you are or what you believe.

# Mandarin Report

## 慶祝 2021 聯合國跨宗教和諧週

### 一花一天堂：跨宗教自然理念交流，為地球永續盡心力

每年 2 月的第 1 週是聯合國「跨宗教和諧週」，世界宗教博物館自 2019 年起，參與至今第 2 年，全球籠罩疫情陰霾，宗博館 4 日舉辦「一花一天堂：跨宗教自然理念交流」主題活動，提醒世人回歸靈性生活、尊重自然生態的重要性。

「跨宗教和諧週」是約旦國王阿布杜拉二世，在 2010 年的聯合國大會提出，希望不同宗教信仰互相了解彼此，共同體認「愛」是所有宗教的本質，並以此促進人心覺醒、族群和諧、世界和平，在新冠疫情肆虐蔓延下，宗博館舉辦 2021 年聯合國「跨宗教和諧週」活動，更顯得難能可貴與責任重大。

4 日上午，來自各宗教代表齊聚宗博館金色大廳，眾人圍成圓形入座，讓彼此面對面、毫無隔閡。世界宗教博物館發展基金會執行長了意法師致歡迎詞時提到，新冠疫情無情打擊，無論哪一個宗教，都肩負安定人心的重責大任；世界宗教博物館身為跨宗教的交流平台，積極串連各宗教，共同為疫情早日平息而努力。

今年主題「一花一天堂」，了意法師引用英國詩人布萊克 ( William Blake ) 的詩句「一沙一世界，一花一天堂」與佛陀曾說「一花一世界，一葉一如來」的異曲同工，期望大家透過宗教覺知、覺醒的帶領，讓這個時空如同天堂一般。了意法師並帶領與會貴賓進行 1 分鐘平安禪，共同領受寧靜帶來的心靈祥和；並呼籲大眾一同「愛地球、愛和平」，共同為人類祈禱人間安康。

活動邀請國際奎師那知覺協會的 7 位代表擔任開場演出，造型特殊的手風琴及鼓彈奏出的樂曲，搭配和諧的人聲，迴盪在金色的大廳，充滿祥和與喜悅。國際奎師那知覺協會創於西元 1966 年，以信奉印度的《薄伽梵歌》為經典，同時遵循《阿育吠陀》的導引，藉著瑜伽、素食、唱頌、冥想等方式過著健康的生活，奎師那代表也與大眾分享「回歸靈性、尊重自然」重要性。

為促進宗教彼此間的理解，各宗教代表在宗博館世展廳自己所屬的宗教櫥窗，或特色展區介紹自己的宗教，並為「跨宗教和諧週」獻上祝福。道教代表李豐楙教授在《道與藝合～道教與民間文學藝術展》特展區，為大家解說道教面對新冠疫情的關聯及祈福禳災的方式；基督教代表林之鼎神父提到：耶穌降世、

道成肉身給予人類極大的啟示，當我們被無限的神所愛時，也應走出狹隘的思想，從自我出發，與其他宗教和平共處。猶太教代表 **Leon Fenster** 拉比除了介紹猶太教並吟唱傳統的禱告詩歌。

伊斯蘭教趙錫麟教長以古蘭經的解釋，提到人生在世如何與造物主和諧共存，是全人類的議題，在慶祝、紀念跨宗教和諧的時刻，以共存、寬容態度，一起跨越全人類面對的世界性災難。印度教代表 **Dr. Sam Aurora** 說到印度教中尊崇自然、世界一家的概念，與今年活動重點「靈性與生態」相呼應，更引用印度的名句，講解由自我的內心修為循序漸進促成世界的和平為跨宗教和諧週給予祝福及期望。

國際佛教聯邦共同主席張玉玲教授以佛教的觀自在菩薩破題，並以家喻戶曉的《心經》中的空性解說「緣起性空」，她提到「性空」，指的是「此有故彼有，此生故彼生」，我們是一個共生、共同、共存、共榮的生態，在疫情重擊下，台灣也要心繫全球、為大眾祈福。

中午各宗教代表在宗博生命和平多元空間餐敘，透過不同宗教的餐前謝餐禮儀，進行宗教交流對話，更認識各宗教在生活中的實踐。

即使宗教不同，「愛」的本質都是一樣的。走過森林大火、新冠疫情等天災人禍的衝擊，人類憑著宗教中「愛」的本質彼此扶持、堅定信心度過黑暗的時期。身為宗教交流平台的宗博館秉持著「尊重、包容、博愛」的理念，持續提供各宗教對話、交流及合作，為宗教和諧、世界和平盡心力。

活動精彩內容影片 2 月 9 日將在宗博館官網及臉書首播，邀請大家一同認識、理解、感受宗教中的一花一世界、自然共和諧。