



INTERFAITH COLLABORATION FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE, AND PEACEMAKER REGENERATION

in the occasion of
World Interfaith Harmony Week
2026

Convened by
**Center for Dialogue and Cooperation
among Civilizations (CDCC) &
Inter Religious Council (IRC)
Indonesia**

Environmental Stewardship
February 1st - 7th, 2026

The Celebration
February 8th, 2026

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Youth Interfaith Training
February 26th - March 1st, 2026



CONTENTS

1. Introduction	2
1.1. Background	2
1.2. Thematic Framework	3
1.3. Organizers	4
1.4. Previous Celebrations	5
2. Events	5
2.1. Interfaith Action for Environmental Stewardship	5
a. Background	5
b. Objectives	6
c. Place & Time	6
d. Involving parties	7
e. Impact and Messages	7
f. Documentation	7
2.2. Celebration of WIHW & IDHF	8
a. Background	8
b. Objectives	9
c. Participants	9
d. Activities & Messages	9
e. Involving Parties	17
f. Documentation	17
2.3. Interfaith Youth Training for Harmony and Collaboration	17
a. Background	17
b. Objectives	18
c. Participants	18
d. Involving Parties	18
e. Activities	18
f. Results	19
g. Follow Up Plan	22
h. Documentation	22
3. Closing & Acknowledgement	22
	25

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Indonesia is widely recognized as one of the most diverse societies in the world. Stretching across more than 17,000 islands and inhabited by hundreds of ethnic groups and cultural communities, Indonesia is home to a rich mosaic of traditions, languages, and religious expressions. The six officially recognized religions—Islam, Protestant Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism—coexist within a pluralistic national framework guided by the philosophical foundation of Pancasila and the national motto *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity).

This diversity represents a valuable social capital that has enabled Indonesia to develop as a democratic and multicultural society. At the same time, the complexity of Indonesia's social and religious landscape requires continuous efforts to nurture dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation among communities. In Indonesia's legal and constitutional framework, the state formally recognizes six religions—Islam, Protestant Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism—which are protected under national regulations governing religious life and freedom of belief. These religious communities play an important role in shaping the country's social fabric and public life.

In the contemporary era, societies around the world, including Indonesia, face various challenges such as social polarization, the spread of misinformation, environmental crises, and tensions related to identity and belief. These dynamics highlight the importance of strengthening platforms that promote interreligious dialogue and collaboration, enabling religious communities and institutions to work together in fostering mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and social harmony.

In this context, interfaith engagement has become an important mechanism for fostering trust, strengthening social cohesion, and building collective responses to shared global challenges. Through dialogue, cultural interaction, and collaborative action, religious communities can contribute significantly to the promotion of peace, tolerance, and sustainable development.

The World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010, provides a global framework to encourage dialogue and cooperation among religious communities around the world. The initiative calls upon governments, religious leaders, civil society organizations, and communities to promote mutual respect and understanding among people of different faith traditions.

In Indonesia, the commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week has developed into an important national platform for strengthening interfaith cooperation. Previous celebrations have demonstrated the strong commitment of religious leaders and communities to maintaining national unity and harmony. For instance, during the 2018 World Interfaith Harmony Week, 450 religious leaders from across Indonesia gathered to deliberate on strategic national issues and adopted a declaration reaffirming their



shared commitment to peace, harmony, and national unity. The celebration also involved large public participation, bringing together thousands of people in a national event that highlighted interfaith dialogue, cultural performances, and collective expressions of unity.

These experiences demonstrate that interfaith initiatives in Indonesia are not merely symbolic events but meaningful platforms that encourage dialogue, reflection, and collaborative action among religious communities and broader society.

1.2. Thematic Framework

The 2026 commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week in Indonesia adopts the theme:

“Interfaith Collaboration for Environment, Culture, and Peacemaker Regeneration.”

This theme reflects the understanding that interfaith engagement must continue to evolve in response to contemporary global challenges. Dialogue among religious communities remains essential, but it must also be accompanied by concrete collaborative actions that contribute to social harmony, environmental sustainability, and the cultivation of future leaders committed to peace.

Within this framework, the 2026 commemoration emphasizes three interconnected dimensions.

First, environmental stewardship is highlighted through an interfaith environmental initiative involving the planting of trees by communities from the six major religions in Indonesia at houses of worship across various regions of the country. This collective action reflects the shared ethical teachings of religious traditions that emphasize responsibility for protecting the Earth and preserving the natural environment for future generations.

Second, cultural engagement is promoted as a means of strengthening dialogue and mutual understanding. Cultural expressions such as artistic performances, music, and interfaith cultural activities serve as bridges that connect communities while celebrating the diversity that characterizes Indonesian society.

Third, the theme places particular emphasis on peacemaker regeneration, recognizing the importance of nurturing a new generation of leaders who are committed to promoting dialogue, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence. As part of this effort, the program includes an Interfaith Youth Training for Harmony and Collaboration, designed to empower young people from different religious backgrounds with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to become agents of peace within their communities.

Through these initiatives, the 2026 commemoration seeks to strengthen the foundations of interfaith harmony by linking environmental responsibility, cultural dialogue, and youth leadership, ensuring that the values of peace and fraternity continue to flourish across generations.



1.3. Organizers

The 2026 celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week in Indonesia is organized by the Center for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations (CDCC) in collaboration with the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) Indonesia.

CDCC has long played an important role in promoting dialogue among civilizations and fostering cooperation among religious communities at both national and international levels. Through research initiatives, dialogue platforms, and collaborative programs, CDCC seeks to strengthen understanding among cultures and faith traditions while encouraging constructive engagement in addressing global challenges.

IRC Indonesia serves as a platform that brings together representatives of major religious organizations in Indonesia. Through this platform, religious leaders and institutions can engage in dialogue, consultation, and joint initiatives that contribute to strengthening social harmony and cooperation across communities.

The implementation of the 2026 WIHW commemoration is also supported by a number of institutional partners, including the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPD RI), the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, and a national TV station “Indosiar”, reflecting the collaborative commitment of religious communities and public institutions in promoting harmony, environmental responsibility, and national unity.

1.4. Previous Celebrations

Over the years, the commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week in Indonesia has involved a broad range of stakeholders, including religious leaders, government institutions, civil society organizations, youth groups, academic institutions, media partners, and representatives of the international community.

Previous celebrations have combined dialogue forums, interfaith prayers, cultural performances, and public declarations of commitment to peace and national unity. These initiatives have contributed to strengthening cooperation among religious communities while promoting Indonesia’s experience of unity in diversity as a positive example for the global community.

Building upon these experiences, the 2026 celebration continues to expand engagement with various working partners, including governmental institutions, religious organizations, educational institutions, media platforms, and civil society actors. This collaborative approach reflects the understanding that promoting harmony and fraternity requires shared responsibility and collective participation across sectors of society.

Through sustained cooperation and inclusive participation, the commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week in Indonesia continues to strengthen its role as a platform for dialogue, solidarity, and collaborative action among diverse communities.

2. Programs/Events

2.1. Interfaith Action for Environmental Stewardship



Dalam rangka merayakan agenda PBB:

Pekan Kerukunan Umat Beragama Dunia
— & —
Hari Persaudaraan Kemanusiaan Internasional

Mari Menanam Pohon!
di Rumah-rumah Ibadah Kita

Gereja, Pura, Vihara, Klenteng:
Minggu, 1 Februari 2026

Masjid:
Jumat, 6 Februari 2026

Harap dapat dikoordinasi oleh masing-masing Majelis Agama

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Merawat bumi adalah ajaran agama dan nilai-nilai kemanusiaan

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February



a. Background

The CDCC and the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) Indonesia view environmental protection as crucial. For us, environmental protection is a shared value that must be consistently promoted to maintain the balance of the environment in which we

live. One of our efforts was to organize a tree-planting campaign at places of worship across Indonesia and distribute tree seedlings to religious leaders and members of the community attending the WIHW celebration.

This event ran smoothly. We collaborated with the Ministry of Forestry to distribute 100 Nusantara tree seedlings to places of worship and to provide souvenirs at the WIHW and IDHF celebrations held in Hall Nusantara IV of the Indonesian Parliament Complex.

The involvement of religious leaders from various faiths also sends a strong message that environmental protection is not solely the responsibility of individuals or groups, but rather a shared commitment of all humanity. Through the celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) and the International Day of Human Fraternity (IDHF), this activity also emphasizes that harmony between religions can be achieved through cooperation in protecting the earth as our shared home.

b. Objectives

- 1) Educating religious communities about the importance of protecting the environment.
- 2) Inspiring various communities, religious institutions, and the wider community to continue taking concrete actions to preserve the environment.
- 3) Maintaining the spirit of human brotherhood and interfaith harmony through concrete actions for the common good.

c. Time & Place

Tree planting at houses of worships was carried out simultaneously from February 1, 2026 to February 7, 2026 in several areas as follows:

- 1) Mosques
 - a. Fastabiqul Khairat Ciputat, Banten Province, 6 february 2026
 - b. Saidah Mosque Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara, 7 February 2026
- 2) Churches
 - a. The Parish of Kampung Sawah, Archdiocese of Jakarta, 5 February 2026
- 3) Hindu Temple
 - a. Taman Sari grand Temple, Halim, East Jakarta, 1 February 2026
- 4) Buddhist Temple
 - a. Banten Province, 1 February 2026
 - b. Jambi Province, 1 February 2026
 - c. West Kalimantan Province, 1 February 2026
 - d. South Sulawesi Province, 1 February 2026
- 5) Confucian Tempe
 - a. Depok, West Java Province, 1 February 2026
 - b. Cilodong, West java Province, 1 February 2026
 - c. Sampit, Middle Kalimantan Province, 1 February 2026

The tree planting was held after weekly worship (jum'ah prayer/church service, etc), and was commenced by prayer and sermon by religious leader.

d. Involving Parties

- 1) **Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia**, with its *green democracy* campaign, collaborating in distributing tree seedlings at the WIHW celebration on February 8, 2026.
- 2) **Ministry of Forestry**, by distributing more than 100 tree seedlings to houses of worship and participants of the WIHW celebration on February 8, 2026.

e. Impact and Messages

The impacts of this activity, including increasing public awareness of the importance of protecting the environment as a shared responsibility. By involving religious leaders, administrators of places of worship, and members of interfaith communities, this activity serves as a means to raise awareness that protecting the earth is a universal value taught by all religions.

f. Documentation (videos of tree planting)



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jB2tw8ZuzfcVDkEd7pSGX1I0qUJeeZDQ>

2.2. Celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) & International Day of Human Fraternity (IDHF)



a. Background

In Indonesia, the commemoration of these two international observances serves as an important platform to strengthen dialogue and collaboration among religious leaders, policymakers, diplomats, civil society organizations, and youth representatives. The 2026 celebration was organized through the collaboration of the Center for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations (CDCC) and the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) Indonesia, in partnership with the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPD RI) and Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia. The initiative also involved the participation of eight religious constituent organizations representing the six officially recognized religions in

Indonesia, reflecting the inclusive and collaborative nature of the country's interfaith engagement.

The national celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) and the International Day of Human Fraternity (IDHF) 2026 was held at Nusantara IV Hall, Parliament Complex, Jakarta, bringing together representatives from various religious communities, government institutions, diplomatic missions, civil society organizations, and youth groups. The event aimed not only to celebrate Indonesia's rich diversity but also to reaffirm the shared commitment of religious communities and national institutions to promoting peace, justice, environmental responsibility, and human fraternity.

The celebration also formed part of a broader interfaith initiative encouraging collaborative action in addressing global challenges, including climate change and social polarization. By bringing together religious institutions, policymakers, and civil society actors, the commemoration served as a platform to strengthen cooperation and promote constructive dialogue in support of a more harmonious and sustainable society.

b. Objectives

The celebration aimed to:

1. Commemorate World Interfaith Harmony Week and the International Day of Human Fraternity in Indonesia.
2. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation among religious communities.
3. Promote values of tolerance, solidarity, and mutual respect in Indonesia's diverse society.
4. Reinforce Indonesia's role as an example of peaceful coexistence among different religions and cultures.
5. Encourage interfaith collaboration in addressing global challenges, including environmental sustainability.

c. Participants

Participants attended the venue was about **500 people**, from six religious adherents.

d. Activities

The national celebration took place on:

Day : Sunday, 8 February 2026

Time : 10.30 – 12.30 WIB

Venue : Nusantara IV Hall, Parliament Complex, Jakarta

The program featured interfaith prayers, messages from global and national leaders, cultural performances, and symbolic environmental initiatives.



Opening Session

The event began with welcoming remarks delivered by Rita Helena, Chair of the Organizing Committee representing Permabudhi, together with members of the interfaith organizing team.

In her remarks, she expressed gratitude to the Chairman of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPD RI), H.E. Sultan B. Najamudin, for his strong support and for facilitating the event at the Nusantara IV Hall. Appreciation was also extended to the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia for contributing tree seedlings for environmental initiatives, as well as to Indosiar, the media partner supporting the dissemination of messages of peace.

She emphasized that the celebration was a collective effort involving representatives of different faith traditions and highlighted the importance of celebrating diversity, unity, and human fraternity.

National Anthem

The formal ceremony began with all participants standing to sing the Indonesian national anthem, “Indonesia Raya,” reinforcing a shared sense of national unity and collective identity.

Interfaith Prayers

One of the most significant moments of the event was the interfaith prayer session, in which prayers were delivered by religious leaders representing six major religions recognized in Indonesia: Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism. Each religious leader offered prayers according to their respective traditions, expressing hopes for peace, unity, justice, and the well-being of humanity. Although expressed through different religious languages and traditions, the prayers conveyed common aspirations for harmony, compassion, and peaceful coexistence.

Cultural Performances

The celebration also featured several cultural performances symbolizing unity in diversity. An interfaith choir led by Dwiki Dharmawan performed a series of Indonesian songs representing different regions of the country. The choir members wore traditional attire reflecting Indonesia’s cultural diversity, reinforcing the message that diversity is a source of richness and harmony.

Additional musical performances included patriotic songs celebrating love for the nation and environmental stewardship, such as *Cinta Indonesia* and *Lestari Alamku*, which highlighted the importance of preserving nature as a shared responsibility.

These artistic performances demonstrated how cultural expression can serve as a bridge between communities and strengthen social cohesion.



Global Messages of Peace and Fraternity

The event featured recorded messages from prominent global religious leaders emphasizing the importance of human fraternity and interreligious dialogue.

Among the peace messages were delivered by:

1. The 266th Pope of the Catholic Church and Head of State of Vatican City, The Late Pope Francis (old video)
2. The Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayeb
3. The Secretary General of Religions for Peace, H.E. Dr. Francis Kuria

Their messages emphasized the responsibility of religious communities to promote peace, foster dialogue, and address global challenges collectively. One message highlighted that fraternity should not remain a passive concept but must become an active force guiding cooperation, solidarity, and inclusive development across societies.

4. Chairman of DPD RI, H.E. Sultan B. Najamudin

A keynote message was delivered by Chairman of the Regional Representative Council (DPD RI). In his remarks, he emphasized that the celebration was not merely a ceremonial event but a reaffirmation of the fundamental principle of human fraternity. He noted that in a global context marked by conflict, polarization, and humanitarian crises, interfaith dialogue plays a crucial role in building peace and preventing division. He also highlighted Indonesia's unique experience as a nation composed of hundreds of ethnic groups, languages, cultures, and religions, yet united by the national philosophy of Pancasila. He further emphasized that harmony is not something that occurs automatically but must be continuously nurtured through dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect. The Chairman also underscored the significance of the Interfaith Action for Climate Change initiative, particularly the planting of trees at houses of worship. According to him, environmental protection should be understood as both a humanitarian responsibility and a moral obligation shared by all religious traditions.

Messages from Religious Leaders

Representatives from the eight constituent organizations of the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) Indonesia delivered brief messages emphasizing peace, justice, and human solidarity.

Moderated by the Honorary Chair of the IRC Indonesia, Prof. Din Syamsuddin, these representatives included leaders from:

1. Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI)/Indonesian Ulama Council
2. Konferensi Waligereja Indonesia (KWI)/Indonesian Bishops' Conference
3. Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia (PGI)/Communion of Churches in Indonesia
4. Parisada Hindu Dharma Indonesia (PHDI)/ Indonesian Hindu Dharma Council



5. Persatuan Umat Buddha Indonesia (Permabudhi)/Indonesian Buddhist Association
6. Majelis Tinggi Agama Khonghucu Indonesia (MATAKIN)/Supreme Council for the Confucian Religion in Indonesia
7. Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)
8. Muhammadiyah
9. Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)



The representative of Nahdlatul Ulama, conveying a message from Chairman K.H. Yahya Cholil Staquf, emphasized the importance of building a just and harmonious international order based on respect for human dignity and equality. He noted that the current global situation reflects many tensions and uncertainties. Therefore, humanity must continuously strive for peace and justice. Peace is not something that emerges automatically but must be cultivated collectively through moral commitment, cooperation, and a shared sense of responsibility for humanity.

The representative of Muhammadiyah, Dr. Imam Addaruqutni highlighted that the concept of human fraternity is deeply rooted in religious teachings. Quoting the Qur'anic principle that believers are brothers and sisters, he stressed that harmony among religious communities is essential for the advancement of civilization. He emphasized that Indonesia's diversity, religious, cultural, and ethnic, should be viewed as a source of strength. Without harmony, civilization cannot flourish. Therefore, maintaining peaceful coexistence among communities of different beliefs is a fundamental condition for national progress and global peace.

The representative of Permabudhi, Prof. Philip Wijaya, emphasized the importance of practical collaboration among religious communities. He highlighted

that religious teachings should become a source of healing in a world affected by poverty, disasters, and social polarization. He encouraged the development of joint initiatives among religious organizations, including humanitarian assistance, educational programs promoting tolerance among youth, and interfaith dialogue involving women and younger generations. He stressed that collective action among communities produces greater results to an individual effort and contributes to building a more peaceful and compassionate society.

The representative of MATAKIN, Prof. Candra Setiawan, reflected on teachings from the Confucian tradition emphasizing harmony and balance. He explained that harmony does not mean uniformity but rather the ability to respect differences while strengthening shared bonds of humanity. In Indonesia, interreligious harmony is not merely an ideal but a fundamental foundation for national stability and social cohesion. He further emphasized the importance of dialogue, empathy, and responsibility in building peaceful coexistence in an increasingly polarized global environment.

The representative of PHDI referred to the Indonesian philosophical concept “Bhinneka Tunggal Ika” (Unity in Diversity), which originates from ancient Javanese wisdom traditions. He emphasized that diversity must continue to be nurtured as a strength that unites the Indonesian nation. Hindu teachings encourage ethical conduct, honesty, responsibility, and commitment to promises as essential values for maintaining harmony in society. According to him, implementing these moral values in daily life will strengthen unity and help maintain Indonesia’s stability and peace.

Representing the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Indonesia, Romo Alois Budi Purnomo highlighted that the celebration of the International Day of Human Fraternity stems from the concern that hatred often arises from a lack of mutual understanding. He emphasized that people of faith are called to build fraternity that leads to compassion. This compassion should not only extend to fellow human beings but also to the natural environment. He also underlined the importance of caring for the Earth as a shared responsibility and welcomed the symbolic tree-planting initiative as a meaningful expression of gratitude and stewardship for creation.

The representative of Majelis Ulama Indonesia, Dr. Zainuddin Daulai, emphasized that peace and social harmony are among the greatest blessings granted by God. He observed that contemporary global conditions are marked by anxiety, conflict, and declining moral values. In such circumstances, religious values must serve as a moral foundation for strengthening fraternity and unity. He highlighted that social cohesion is an essential form of social capital for a nation. According to him, harmony can be strengthened through three key pillars:

Tolerance, Equality, Cooperation. While tolerance represents the basic level of peaceful coexistence, he emphasized that societies must progress toward deeper cooperation among communities.

The representative from Persekutuan Gereja-Gereja di Indonesia (PGI) emphasized that Indonesia provides an important example to the world of how a highly diverse society can remain united. He noted that international observers often ask about the “secret” of Indonesia’s social harmony. The answer lies in the country’s ability to embrace diversity while maintaining a shared commitment to national unity. He expressed hope that Indonesia can continue to serve as a global model of peaceful coexistence built upon mutual respect and dialogue among different civilizations.

Message from the Vice Minister of Religious Affairs. The Vice Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. K.H. Muhammad Syafi’i, also delivered remarks emphasizing that religious values form the moral foundation of Indonesian society. He highlighted that the first principle of Pancasila, Belief in the Almighty God, serves as the ethical foundation for the other principles of justice, unity, democracy, and social welfare. He further emphasized that the Indonesian Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and ensures equal protection for all religious communities. According to him, Indonesia’s guiding philosophy of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* encourages citizens to take pride in diversity while maintaining unity as one nation.

Speakers emphasized that interreligious harmony is essential for the advancement of civilization and that cooperation among religious communities is necessary to address global challenges such as conflict, poverty, and environmental degradation.

Symbolic Handover of Tree Seedlings

A symbolic handover of tree seedlings was conducted as part of the Interfaith Action for Climate Change initiative. The seedlings were provided by the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia and were symbolically handed over by the Chairman of DPD RI and the Vice Minister of Religious Affairs to representatives of the eight religious organizations within IRC Indonesia.

This symbolic gesture represented a shared commitment to environmental protection and the recognition that caring for the Earth is a moral responsibility shared by all faith traditions. Participants were also encouraged to plant and nurture the seedlings in their respective communities as a tangible contribution to environmental sustainability.

Closing Cultural Performance

The event concluded with a collaborative interfaith musical performance featuring a medley of religious songs and the final song “Perdamaian” (Peace), performed collectively to symbolize unity and hope. The performance reminded participants that differences in religion, culture, and background should serve as bridges for mutual understanding rather than sources of division. The celebration ended with a shared commitment to continue promoting peace, fraternity, and cooperation among religious communities.



Cultural and Interfaith Musical Performances

The celebration was enriched by a series of cultural and musical performances that symbolized Indonesia’s spirit of unity in diversity. One of the highlights of the program was an interfaith choir performance led by renowned Indonesian musician Dwiki Dharmawan.

The choir presented a special interfaith musical arrangement that included religious songs representing the six major religions recognized in Indonesia, Islam, Protestant Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Each song was performed with respect to its spiritual tradition, reflecting the unique expressions of faith within Indonesia’s diverse religious communities.

The performances were carefully arranged to demonstrate that, while the melodies and traditions may differ, they all convey shared values of devotion, peace, compassion, and gratitude toward the Divine. Members of the choir wore traditional attire representing different regions of Indonesia, further reinforcing the message that cultural and religious diversity are sources of harmony rather than division.



In addition to the interfaith religious songs, the choir also performed several Indonesian songs celebrating unity and love for the nation, including “Cinta Indonesia” and “Lestari Alamku,” which conveyed messages of national pride and environmental stewardship.

Through music, the performance created a powerful moment of unity, illustrating how artistic expression can serve as a bridge between faith traditions and inspire mutual understanding among communities.

The session concluded with a collective performance of the song “Perdamaian” (Peace), symbolizing the shared aspiration of all religious communities for harmony, fraternity, and lasting peace.

e. Involving Parties

1) Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia

The Indonesian Regional Representative Council (DPD RI) has fully supported this event for the past two years. With deep appreciation and dedication to interfaith harmony, the Chairman of the DPD RI is willing to provide the venue and various forms of moral and material support.

2) Indosiar

Indosiar is a private television station whose programs showcase the spirit of diversity and harmony. The Indosiar team plays a role in organizing, producing, and broadcasting its programs on television.

a. Documentation

[\(76\) The Celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week & International Day of Human Fraternity - YouTube](#)

2.3. Interfaith Youth Training for Harmony and Collaboration (Basic level)

a. Background

Maintaining harmony amidst diversity is not a static endeavor; it is an ongoing effort that demands consistency and patience. Currently, our greatest challenges are extremism and egocentrism, which are threatening to shake the pillars of harmony. Differences are often viewed as dividing boundaries, not as unifying riches.

Therefore, the challenges on the ground require more than just awareness; they require sound knowledge, the ability to engage in dialogue with empathy, understanding, and ultimately, mutual agreement. There is an urgent need for a training system capable of providing comprehensive understanding, fostering a sense of brotherhood, transforming dialogue into collaboration, and transforming knowledge into strategic competencies for managing differences.



In response to these challenges, the Center for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations (CDCC) and the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) Indonesia held the Interfaith Youth Training for Harmony and Collaboration, designed with a comprehensive, tiered approach. The Basic Level training aims to build a foundation of literacy and deconstruct prejudice. Furthermore, the Intermediate Level aims to transform participants into advocacy agents skilled in conflict resolution and humanitarian advocacy. This program is not just training, but a systematic effort to develop young leaders capable of standing tall as architects of peace amidst global diversity.

IRC
Inter Religious Council Indonesia

CDCC
Center for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

Pelatihan Pemuda Lintas Agama untuk Harmoni dan Kolaborasi

Tingkat Dasar

26 Februari - 1 Maret 2026 | **PPSDM Kemendikdasmen Depok**
Jakarta, February 26th 2026

Welcoming & Keynote Remarks

Prof. Dr. M. Din Syamsuddin
"Jalan Tengah untuk Kerukunan Bangsa: Bedah Hasil Musyawarah Besar Pemuka Agama Indonesia"

Opening Remarks

Rev. Dr. Yoshihori Shinohara
Secretary General of Religions for Peace Asia

Keynote Speech

Prof. Dr. Abdul Mu'ti, M.Ed.
"Merawat Harmoni, Menyemai Kolaborasi Lintas Agama & Peradaban"

Main Session

Pemuka agama Islam, Katolik, Kristen, Hindu, Buddha, Khonghucu
Ajaran Dasar dan Nilai Universal Agama-agama

Fasilitator:

- Dr. Aan Rukmana
- Fahmi Syahirul Alim, MA.
- Puti H. Syadiyah, M.I.Kom
- Astrid Nadya Rizqita, M.PP.

Peserta dari delegasi pemuda:

- Majelis Ulama Indonesia • Konferensi Waligereja Indonesia • Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia
- Parisada Hindu Dharma Indonesia • Persatuan Umat Buddha Indonesia • Majelis Tinggi Agama Khonghucu Indonesia • Nahdlatul Ulama • Muhammadiyah

b. Time & Place

Human Resources Training Center of Ministry of Elementary and Secondary Education of the Republic of Indonesia
26 February – 1 March 2026

c. Objectives

This very first youth interfaith training was designed as moments of meeting, introduction, and familiarity among participants. The basic level is aimed to:

1. Deepen participants' knowledge of the six religions in Indonesia.
2. Increase mutual understanding among religious adherents.
3. Reduce stigma, prejudice, misunderstanding between religious adherents.
4. Nurture dialogue and strengthen cooperation between religious adherents.
5. Develop cadres of agents of interfaith dialogue and harmony.

d. Participants

Participants of the training were youth delegates of religious assemblies associated with Inter Religious Council Indonesia. The CDCC and IRC Indonesia extended its formal request to the religious assemblies to delegate 5 youth activist within their youth wing organization to join. However, the number of delegates from each organization varies, as follows:

1. Indonesian Ulama Council : 5 participants
2. Indonesian Catholic Bishops' Conference: 7 participants
3. Communion of Churches in Indonesia : 3 participants
4. Indonesian Hindu Dharma Council : 2 participants
5. Indonesian Buddhist Association : 7 participants
6. Supreme Council for the Confucian Religion in Indonesia : 5 participants
7. Muhammadiyah : 5 participants
8. Nahdlatul Ulama : 5 participants

Total participants: 49 youth participants

e. Involving Parties

- 1) **Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education of the Republic of Indonesia**, as sponsor, including the involvement of **the Minister, Prof. Dr. Abdul Mu'ti as the Keynote Speaker**. The Ministry of Education's support demonstrates that interfaith harmony is part of the national education framework. Furthermore, it also clarifies the direction of this training to further empower students and youth.
- 2) This event also was also **supported by University of Paramadina**, which is known for its moderate and excellence in philosophy. It sent expert in philosophy and interfaith dialogue to become instructors.

f. Activities

Day 1 (Thursday, 26 February 2026)

- Opening Ceremony commenced with Welcoming Remarks by Executive Director of CDCC, Puti Hasanatu Syadiah, who gladly welcome the newly established youth circle for interfaith dialogue. Opening Remarks delivered by the Secretary General of Religions for Peace Asia, Rev. Dr. Yoshihori Shinohara, who attended through online platform, reinforced the religions and religious adherents' role in realizing peace as well as the importance of dialogue regeneration. Chairman of CDCC and Honorary Chair of IRC Indonesia, Prof. Din Syamsuddin, opened the Training while providing general insights into comparative religion, the diversity of the Indonesian nation, and how Indonesia can stand tall and survive because of founding fathers' tolerance and a sense of togetherness.
- The first session was on **“Middle Path for National Harmony: Review of the Results of the Grand Deliberation of Religious Leaders 2018”**. The Grand Deliberation which convened 450 religious leaders from across Indonesia, was held by CDCC, IRC Indonesia, and the Office of Presidential Special Envoy for Interfaith and Intercivilizational Dialogue in February 2018, as part of the celebration of World Interfaith harmony Week 2018. Prof. Din Syamsuddin, who was also the Former Special Envoy, explained to the training participants, the contents and the context of the agreement. The Forum also agreed to implement, revitalize, and re-socialize the agreement to the youth generation.

Day 2 (Friday, 27 February 2026)

- The next main session was **An Introduction to the Monotheistic Religions**, which explain the basic teachings of Islam, Christianity, and Catholicism in a panel and talkshow format. This session assembled a distinguished panel of religious leaders and scholars, representing three monotheistic religions recognized in Indonesia (Islam, Christianity, and Catholicism). This panel ensured an inclusive and balanced explanation and seek shared values. Their presence provided unique insights into the universal values of three religions on interfaith dialogue and collaboration.
Speakers for this session were: **KH. Abdul Moqsith Ghazali (Indonesian Ulama Council, Chair for Interfaith Harmony), Rm. Heri Wibowo (Indonesian Catholic Bishops' Conference, Chair of Peace and Justice Commission; Rev. Johan Kristantara (Communion of Churches in Indonesia, Executive Secretary); and Dr. Thohirin el-Ashry (Muhammadiyah Central Board, the Da'wa Council).**
- The second main session was **An Introduction to the Eastern Religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism)**, by each religious leader. As the previous session, this panel also provide basic teachings and knowledge of each religion, as well as the universal shared values on humanity, middle way, and interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Participants were enthusiast attended both Introductory sessions, as they actively engaged in discussion and Q&A sessions.



Speakers of this session: **JM. Astono Chandra Dana (Indonesian Hindu Dharma Council)**, **Rev. Sima Budy (Indonesian Buddhist Association, Chair, Banten Region)**, **Ws. Gunadi (Supreme Council for the Confucian Religion in Indonesia)**.

- The end of the second day was used to enrich basic knowledge of religions, while also increasing familiarity among participants. The enrichment session was led by executive of CDCC, acted as trainer, who have extended experiences in interfaith dialogue and cooperation. All 39 participants were divided into 3 groups based on their interests or vision in interfaith issues. Each group must have representatives from 6 religions. The first game, participants were asked to find as many similar concepts from 6 religions as possible, and to find their respective terms. Example *rahmah* (Islam), *agape* (Christianity), *ahimsa* (Hinduism), *metta* (Buddhism), etc. The second game was a quiz, guessing symbols that are identical to a particular religion and explaining their meaning. From this session, familiarity grew between participants of different religions, getting to know each other, and learning to work together. This session was also aimed for reducing negative stigma between each other.

Day 3 (Saturday, 28 February 2026)

- The third day started by simulation and brainstorming using “**Six Thinking Hats**” method by Dr. Edward de’ Bono to analyze the problems of interfaith relations in Indonesia. By focusing on one viewpoint at a time—facts (White), emotions (Red), caution (Black), optimism (Yellow), creativity (Green), and process control (Blue)—teams avoid conflict and explore ideas more comprehensively. This session was led by Dr. Aan Rukmana, a lecturer, comparative religions expert, and interfaith dialogue activist.
- The last –but not least- lecture session was **Keynote Speech on “Nurturing Harmony, Sowing Collaboration Across Religions and Civilizations”** delivered by **Prof. Abdul Mu’ti, who currently serves as Minister of Elementary and Secondary Education of Indonesia** as well as Secretary General of Muhammadiyah Central Board. He is the perfect figure to convey this topic for his broad knowledge and extended experiences in interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

In this kind opportunity, Prof. Abdul Mu’ti shared his thought, experiences, and wisdom to the young generation. The notable points of his speech among others about what he says “positive pluralism”, dealing with bullying and tolerance issues at school environment, and underscoring that dialogue and harmony alone are not enough in building inter-religious relations instead must reach the stage of collaboration and cooperation.

- Furthermore, training activities focused on group discussions to formulate **interfaith collaboration programs**. As a result, three groups of participants developed the following follow-up plans:

The first group focused on **advocacy for youth and students** who are victims of religious bullying, including combating Islamophobia, xenophobia, and other issues; and providing workshops for teachers and school counselors about interfaith tolerance in schools.

The second group focused on **interfaith literacy**, with flagship programs including creating a book on the “Basic Teachings and Universal Values of Religions” and disseminating the Religious Leaders’ Agreement for National Harmony through various creative content.

The third group aimed to **help people with disabilities**, particularly the deaf, sought assistance in places of worship by conducting training for deaf interpreters for worship staff.

g. Results

- 1) This training successfully formed a circle of interfaith youth committed to interfaith dialogue and cooperation.
- 2) This training successfully changed the negative stigma among youth about followers of other religions.
- 3) This training successfully made youth more open to differences.
- 4) This training successfully strengthened and renewed interfaith relations in Indonesia.

h. Follow Up Plan

- 1) Supervise participants’ follow-up actions and ensure the implementations.
- 2) Hold Interfaith Youth Training Intermediate Level this year.

i. Documentation



Opening Remark by Rev. Dr. Yoshihori Shinohara, Secretary General of Religions for Peace Asia through Zoom





Minister of Elementary and Secondary Education as Keynote Speaker



The joyful of participants after the Training



3) Closing & Acknowledgement

The World Interfaith Harmony Week is an inspiration for revitalizing and rekindling interfaith relations. Since the week was adopted by the UN, Indonesia, through the CDCC and IRC Indonesia, has consistently commemorated it. This year and in the years to come, the CDCC and IRC Indonesia will continue to work diligently to maintain interfaith harmony by developing interfaith cooperation in various fields.

As is known, the CDCC and IRC Indonesia are non-profit and non-governmental organizations with limited resources. However, with a spirit of togetherness, we have consistently succeeded in engaging various parties, both government and private, to collaborate and support this event. Through sustained cooperation and inclusive participation, the commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week in Indonesia continues to strengthen its role as a platform for dialogue, solidarity, and collaborative action among diverse communities.

In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude to the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPD RI) for facilitating this celebration over the past two years. We also thank the national television station Indosiar for organizing, hosting, and broadcasting the event. This year, we are also collaborating with the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education on environmental programs and youth training. We hope this collaboration will continue and grow stronger, benefiting the nation and the world.

