



INTERFAITH YOUTH FORUM 2012

Better Understanding Through Interfaith Dialogue

Palembang, South Sumatera - Indonesia
28th - 30th September 2012



Youth Interfaith
Community

Contents

Greeting from Chairman of IYF 2012	1
Day 1	
• Opening Ceremony	2
• An Introduction for Interfaith Dialogue	3
Day 2	
• Building a peaceful ideal nation	4
• SUSI's experience and Fishbowl	8
• One Family under God	8
Day 3	
• Worship and City Tour	9
Interfaith Youth Forum Participants	10
Special Thanks	
Rundown of IYF	
Gallery	
Media Publication	

Report written by : Agus Burniat
Design Cover n Content : Septian Pratama Ambehy
Editor : I Gede Pandu Wirawan, Armazy Yahya
Email : interfaithyouthforum@yahoo.com
Twitter : @IYF2012
Youtube : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aW9qiiU28I&feature=share>

GREETING

Dear all,



Interfaith Youth Forum (IYF) 2012 was an outstanding success beyond our most optimistic expectations. Thanks mostly to staggering number in delegates participation. The highest in the history of the first Interfaith Youth Forum held in Palembang, South Sumatera Indonesia 28th -30th September 2012 on the theme “Better Understanding through Interfaith Dialogue”.

Youth is the back bone of the country that the future of the country is on the youth’s hand. The forum was attended by 40-Indonesian youths. This forum was providing them an opportunity to strengthen and improve cooperation and mutual interest among youth in Indonesia throughout the dialogue, sharing, and meeting people from various provinces in Indonesia.

Hereby I really want to express my greatest thank to those who supported this event; Dialogue Institute, International Centre for Contemporary Education (ICCE), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Sociology Students Association of University of Sriwijaya, Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation (GPFIF), Global Peace Youth Corps (GPYC), and American Alumnae Association (AAA) of South Sumatera. I also really want to thank to instancias who have sponsored this event ; PT. Bukit Asam (Persero) Tbk and PT. Pertamina Refinery Unit III in Sungai Gerong, South Sumatera, for all the helps and benefits toward the future of Indonesia.

On behalf of the organizing committee activities, we all committee do apologize profusely because we fully realize that the organization of this forum is certainly not without any flaws. Especially for the participants, I congratulate undergoing routine and incidental activities wherever you are. Make the city of Palembang as unforgettable memories in order to establish our togetherness in the pursuit of happiness of this life.

Thank You.

I Gede Pandu Wirawan
Chairman

PROCEEDING

DAY 1

- OPENING CEREMONY

Mr. I Gede Pandu Wirawan, as a Chairman of Interfaith Youth Forum 2012, delivered his speech representing the view of committee. He stated that this IYF 2012 is aimed to create a peace through the stated theme: Better Understanding through Interfaith Dialogue.

Ms. Meliani E. Murtiningsih, MA, as a representative of Dialogue Institute, USA. Dialogue Institute as one of facilitator during alumnae of SUSI (Study of the US Institute) program in Temple University, USA, said that really proud that their alumnae have implemented their action plan through Interfaith Youth Forum 2012.

Ms. Shintya Rahmi Utami, as Chairman of Global Peace Youth Corps, said that they (GPYC) are really happy to be partner of this event. She hoped that this event would give good impact for all the people in the world.

Prof. Diemroh Ihsan as chairman of American Alumni Association (AAA) of South Sumatera said that Interfaith Youth Forum 2012 is a forum that provides young people to getting a chance to share ideas, experience, and opinion will help to avoid ethnocentrism, to expand people horizons, and to appreciate everything the world has to offer. Youth have to work hand in hand to create peace in the world.



Dra. Dyah Hapsari ENH, M.Si, as a Dean of Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Sriwijaya, officially open Interfaith Youth Forum 2012. As we know, that Indonesia is multicultural country and religion is sensitive issue. She proud and thank the YIC for the implementation of this event. Because this event will strength cooperates among youth through dialogue.

They also expect that all participants could know better the Palembang both from tourism and other locations. The event came with a performance of traditional dance from Palembang and singing Indonesia Raya. Participants are also welcomed to enjoy the local cuisine which formerly named Pempek.



- **An Introduction to Interfaith Dialogue**



Ms. Meliani E. Murtiningsih from Dialogue Institute, USA explained about an Introduction to Interfaith Dialogue. First, she explained about definition of interfaith dialogue. Interfaith Dialogue is cooperation, constructive and positive interaction between people of different faith traditions. There are three misconception of interfaith dialogue: an effort to create new religion, an opportunity to convert others and belief in a dialogue is only a debate.

She also explained that there are three goals of interfaith dialogue: first, to gain an understanding and acceptance the difference, second, to struggle against negative conditioning and fanaticism and third, to open the door of the listening, communicating and respect.

According to the dialogue Decalogue that formulated by Prof. Leonard Swidler, Ms. Meliani explained that there are ten rules for dialogue : (1) The essential purpose of dialogue is to learn, which entails change, (2) Dialogue must be a two-sided project: both between religious/ideological groups, and within religious/ideological groups (Inter- and Intra-). (3) It is imperative that each participant comes to the dialogue with complete honesty and sincerity. (4) One must compare only her/his ideals with their partner's ideals, and her/his practice with their partner's practice. Not their ideals with their partner's practice. (5) Each participant needs to describe her/himself. (6) Participants must not come to the dialogue with any preconceptions as to where the points of disagreement lie.(7) Dialogue can only take place between equals, which means that partners learn from each other—par cum pari according to the Second Vatican Council—and do not merely seek to teach one another. (8) Dialogue can only take place on the basis of mutual trust. (9) Participants in dialogue should have a healthy level of criticism toward their own traditions. (10) To truly understand another religion or ideology one must try to experience it from within, which requires a “passing over,” even if only momentarily, into another’s religious or ideological experience.

Day 2

Building a Peaceful Ideal Nation

Session 1

Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Tolerance in perspective of Islam, Catholic and Protestant, in this section, each religious leader from Islam, Catholic and Protestant gave their perspective about Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Tolerance. First, is Mr. Pdt. Lulus Ananto from Protestant, he talked about religious pluralism and interfaith tolerance in Protestant's perspective. Pdt. Lulus started by definition "What is Religion?" he divided it in two reality, first religion as a life reality and the second religion as faith reality. Religion as a life reality: Religion is a life reality that closed in every body or group. Religion as faith reality: Religion is a faith reality that believed by person or group about "something".

Plurality and Tolerance in Protestant has explained in their holy book.

- Acts 10: 34-35 "...God is no respecter of persons. Any person of any nation who fear him acceptable to him."
- Law of Love: Matthew 22: 37-39 "Love your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. That is the greatest and first commandment. The second commandment is Love your neighbor as yourself"
- The human race as a big family God came from a common ancestor (Acts 17 : 26)

Before finishing his presentation Mr. Lulus gave quotes "If we do not accept and respect each other, then we will lose time to think positive, loving, creative and productive"

The second speaker is Ust. Muhyidin Sumedi from Islam. He is owner of Al-Ittifaqiyah Islamic Boarding School in Indralaya. He presented "Framing the Tolerant Spirit toward Civil Indonesia". Islam means peace, survived and surrendered. Islam is *Rahmatan Lil 'Alamin* (grace, blessings and protect all natural) not only for Muslim but all also universally applicable. The principle of tolerance in Islam: faith is personal right that must be respected, a difference in beliefs is God, and there is no compulsion in religion.

"O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted." (Al Hujurat : 13)

Islam has implemented tolerance since the prophet. For example “Madina Charter” , there are rights for non-Muslim :

- The security of God is equal for all groups,
- Non-Muslim members have equal political and cultural rights as Muslims. They will have autonomy and freedom of religion.
- Non-Muslims will take up arms against the enemy of the Ummah and share the cost of war. There is to be no treachery between the two.
- Non-Muslims will not be obliged to take part in religious wars of the Muslims.

And then there is instruction from Imam Ali to Gub. Malik

“Malik! Do not eliminate the good habits that have been imposed by their leaders, who have to reconcile them so that the people become prosperous. Do not create new habits that damage the good old customs. in order to remain the property of their reward, and you must take responsibility if elimination it. (Nahj al-balagha 427-428).”

And then, the last speaker of this section is Pastor Blasius Sukoto, SCJ from Catholic. He presented his presentation entitled “Interfaith Dialogue for Better Understanding”. Meaningful of dialogue are: people are trying TO LISTEN with a smile TO DISCOVER new knowledge and TO RESPON good answer for better life in the future.

“Cohesion and Religious Tolerance among People By The Catholic Church”

Since the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church strongly emphasizes and helped fight for harmony and tolerance among religions, as and for the sake of harmony, brotherhood, peace, unity, and the "safety" of all mankind. Harmony and tolerance between religious communities is seen as essential and universal needs. It is said by the Second Vatican Council:

"But we cannot call the name of God the Father of all people, when against certain people, who are created in the image of God in common; we do not want to be as a brother. Man's relationship with God the Father and his relationship with fellow human brother so closely, so Allah said: "Whoever does not love, he does not know God" (1 John 4:8).

Therefore, neither basis for any theory or practice is held the distinction of the human dignity nor the rights derived to him between man and man, between nation and nation. So the Church condemned any discrimination between persons or persecution based on ancestry or skin color, condition of social life or religion, as opposed to the spirit of Christ. The good religious life can only be done if there is an atmosphere and environment that provides freedom of religion and every people can carry out their religion wisely.

Session 2

After having short break the section continued by speakers from Hindu and Buddhist. Hindu was represented by I Made Gede Armana. He is the Chairman of PHDI (Parisada Hindu Dharma Indonesia) South Sumatra. He explained about universal values in Hindu as foundation to build relation in diversity, such as:

- Tat Asi Twan: I am as you are. This is a very universal statement as meaning what each individual puts himself together with others spiritually.
- Karma Phala: Action brings result. Every action will bring results. If you do well, then let the results to be obtained and vice versa.
- Tri Kaya Parisudha: Three things holy and glorious covering aspects of thoughts, words and deeds.
- Tri Hita Karana: The pattern of a harmonious relationship between human being, the environment and God.
- Tri Guna: Three basic characters of human beings are the first fast-paced, loud, and tend to be tempered (angry), both characters slowly receives little bit lazy, and the character of impartial.
- Mokshartam Jagadhita: A basic understanding of the purpose of religion is the welfare of the world and happiness in the afterlife, or the spiritual and physical happiness.
- Catur Marga Yoga: Pluralism or even understanding the diversity of the internal level, the Hindu has given room to grow and develop. Its meaning is to realize the spiritual contact to God through the four approaches or roads, including knowledge (Jnana), action (Karma), devotion and sacrifice (bhakti), and the practice of meditation (Raja). This approach provides the flexibility to choose the most appropriate way for each individual to perform spiritual approach.
- Catur Warna: 4 (four professional fields) in a society based on the talent and skills that reinforce each other to promote the progress of society. Each rely on physical strength (Sudra), ability in the field of business (wesya), administrative skills and organize society (knights), and the ability and spiritual intelligence (Brahman).

DAY 2

Universal values embodied in the teachings of a great reference that is critical to further strengthen confidence and broaden your horizons. Within the scope of the broader society to the level of global values is still very worthy of the reference feels even more important and beneficial.

And finally, the last speaker was Girivirya Sulaiman, he presented his presentation entitled “Interfaith Dialogue: Building nation with positive thinking”. First, he explained Buddhist in general and some misconceptions of Buddhist in other’s view. Buddhism is a religion which teaches people to 'live and let live'. In the history of the world, there is no evidence to show that Buddhists have interfered or done any damages to any other religion in any part of the world for the purpose of introducing their religion. Buddhists do not regard the existence of other religions as a hindrance to worldly progress and peace, Instead of converting the followers of other religions into our religion. Buddhists can encourage others to practice their own religions, provided that they promote the well being of all living beings.

The Buddha's message was an invitation to all to join the fold of universal brotherhood to work in strength and harmony for the welfare and happiness of mankind. He had no chosen people, and he did not regard himself as a chosen one either. Tolerance in the perspective of Buddhist has explained in the King Ashoka, Rock Edict XII :

“Beloved-of-the-Gods, King Piyadasi, honors both ascetics and the householders of all religions, and he honors them with gifts and honors of various kinds.[22] But Beloved-of-the-Gods, King Piyadasi, does not value gifts and honors as much as he values this -- that there should be growth in the essentials of all religions.[23] Growth in essentials can be done in different ways, but all of them have as their root restraint in speech, that is, not praising one's own religion, or condemning the religion of others without good cause. And if there is cause for criticism, it should be done in a mild way. But it is better to honor other religions for this reason. By so doing, one's own religion benefits, and so do other religions, while doing otherwise harms one's own religion and the religions of others. Whoever praises his own religion, due to excessive devotion, and condemns others with the thought "Let me glorify my own religion," only harms his own religion. Therefore contact (between religions) is good.[24] One should listen to and respect the doctrines professed by others. Beloved-of-the-Gods, King Piyadasi, desire that all should be well-learned in the good doctrines of other religions.

Those who are content with their own religion should be told this: Beloved-of-the-Gods, King Piyadasi, does not value gifts and honors as much as he values that there should be growth in the essentials of all religions. And to this end many are working -- Dhamma Mahamatras, Mahamatras in charge of the women's quarters, officers in charge of outlying areas, and other such officers. And the fruit of this is that one's own religion grows and the Dhamma is illuminated also”

SUSI’s Experience and Fishbowl

In the afternoon, Gugun Gumilar, one of alumnae of SUSI (Study of the U.S Institute) on Religious Pluralism program, shared his experience during join that program last winter 2011. He also explained about religious freedom in America. And then Dr. Rebecca Mays, one of staff Dialogue Institute, USA explained about Fishbowl. Fishbowl is a form of dialogue that can be used when discussing topics within large groups. After that, participants divided into five small groups, each group gave different topic to discuss together.

One Family under God



After having dinner, the section continued with seminar “One Family under God” from Mr. James Poon. He explained One Family under God as new paradigm to reach interfaith peace. While each faith tradition has its own unique and essential spiritual path, all faiths share a

common responsibility to promote the greater good in civil society. Faith leaders should promote a common understanding of the most fundamental universal principles



Day 3

Worship and City Tour

The third days of IYF 2012 activity are visiting place for Worship and City Tour. All participants joined a tour in visiting place for worship and tourist resort in Palembang. Firstly, we visited Pura (Temple) Penataran Agung Sriwijaya, a worship place for Hindu. And then we moved to Pesantran Ar-Rahman (Islamic Boarding School), Vihara Dharma Kirti (Buddhist Worship), HKBP Yapon Protestant Church and Santo Joseph Catholic Church. We also visited venue of South East Asia (SEA) Games, Ampera Bridge and Museum of Sultan Mahmud Baddarudin II. The aim of this trip was to learn more about these religions and Palembang's culture.

At the end of this trip, they came to souvenirs' centre and traditional food of Palembang. All participants seemed to be happy for knowing the diversity of Palembang's culture, especially they can learn more and directly come to worship place in Palembang. At most, they were really pleased to join this serial program from 28-30 September 2012, in Interfaith Youth Forum 2012.

WORSHIP TOUR

Interfaith Youth Forum 2012 Participants



- Aceh : M. Asy Syauqie
- North Sumatera : Renra Siagian, Franky Febryanto Banfatin, Rika Mayasari Harahap
Saddam Azhar Pasaribu,
- West Sumatera : Wahdini Dwiranda
- South Sumatera : A' lalia, Yowen Sartika, Dini Fuadillah Sofyan, Iing Dwi Reski P,
Agung Pratama, Alfianto Sinulingga, Annisa Irindita Pradani,
Lawra Brahmana, Widya Kusuma, Perry Hasan Pardede.
- West Java : Intan Wadhiatul A.K, Abdul Hoer, Christanto, Paulus Ronald BN,
Gabriella Renetta Anindia,
- Jakarta : Tri Utami, Faisal Hilmi, Harumi Kartini, Chairul Huda, Meiniwan H,
Ida Ayu Indira DL, Sartikadi, Winner Fransisca Manik,
- Yogyakarta : Rahmat Dwi Putranto
- East Java : I Komang Adi Putra, Fransisca Adelina DA, Maufiqurrahman,
Nabilah Munsyarihah, Ni Putu Intan SW
- Central of Java : Greget Kalla Buana
- Bali : Ida Bagus Anggapurana Pidada.

SPECIAL THANKS

Through this report, we would like to express our thanks to those, both individuals and institutions, which have provided moral and material assistance as follow:

Individuals:

Dra. Dyah Hapsari ENH, M.Si (Dean of FISIP UNSRI), Prof. Dhiemroh Ihsan (Chairman of South Sumatera AAA), Prof. Leonard Swidler, Dr. Rebecca Mays, Dr. Juliet Swidler, Meliani E. Murtiningsih (Dialogue Institute), Sofyan Effendy S.IP,M.Si (Vice Dean of FISIP UNSRI), Nadya Tarigan (GPFIF), Dr. Darryl Macer (UNESCO RUSHAP Bangkok), Mr. Charaf and Ms. Amila Alisa (UNESCO Jakarta), Bpk. A. Rahman and Bpk. Teguh (PT. Bukit Asam), Ibu Yohana (Hubmas PT. Pertamina RU III), Shintya Rahmi Utami and Gugun Gumilar (GPYC),

Institutions:

Dialogue Institute, Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation, University of Sriwijaya, Sociology Students Association, ICCE, US Embassy Jakarta, South Sumatera AAA, UNESCO, Global Peace Youth Corps, Pondok Pesantren Ar-Rahman, Vihara Dharma Kirti, Pura Penataran Agung Sriwijaya, Catholic Church Santo Joseph, Protestan Church HKBP Yapon, Lembaga Pers Mahasiswa Gelora Sriwijaya.

Core Committee:

I Gede Pandu Wirawan, Agus Burniat, Annita Noor Rohmah, M. Ghufroon Ashrovy, Ahmad Muhibi, Rahmatullah Zamzami Nafi.

Volunteers:

Septian Pratama Ambehy, Dian Melinda Sari, Robinson Sinurat, Rudi Hartanto, Heru Darmawan, Handri Pratama, Nova Eka Sari, Nurul Hafidzah, Annisa Rachmi, Riska Fitrah Apriyanti, Boma Apriansyah, Melisa, Deslina, Devi Hardianti, Trida Febriani, Retno.



Rundown IYF 2012

Day 1 (28 Sept 2012)

- 09.00 – 13.00 : Arrival of Participants
13.00 – 15.30 : Registration, Check-in and Lunch
16.00 – 17.30 : Opening Ceremony
- Indonesia's National Anthem : Indonesia Raya
 - Traditional of Palembang's Dance : Tanggai Dance
 - Welcoming Remarks
 - a. Chairman of IYF 2012 : I Gede Pandu Wirawan
 - b. Representative of Dialogue Institute : Meliani E. Murtiningsih
 - c. Chairman of GPYC : Shintya Rahmi Utami
 - d. Chairman of AAA South Sumatera : Prof. Dhiemroh Ihsan
 - Opening Remarks by
Dean of FISIP UNSRI : Dra. Dyah Hapsari, ENH, M.Si
- 17.30 – 19.00 : Break and Dinner
19.30 – 21.30 : an Introduction to Interfaith Dialogue by Meliani E. Murtiningsih (DI,USA)
Moderator : Agus Burniat (Alumnus of SUSI RPA 2012)
21.30 : Light out

Day 2 (29 Sept 2012)

- 06.00 – 07.30 : Morning exercise and breakfast
08.00 – 10.00 : Session 1 Seminar of Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Dialogue in the
Perspective of Islam, Catholic and Protestant.
 - a. Protestan by Pdt. Lulus Ananto
 - b. Islam by Ust. Muhyidin
 - c. Catholic by Pastor Blasius SukotoModerator : Ahmad Muhibi (Alumnus of SUSI RPA 2012)
- 10.00 – 10.30 : Coffee break
- 10.30 – 12.00 : Session 2 Seminar of Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Dialogue in the
Perspective of Hindu and Buddhist
 - a. Hindu by Bpk. I Made
 - b. Buddhist by Girivirya SulaimanModerator : I Gede Pandu Wirawan (Alumnus of SUSI RPA 2012)
- 12.00 – 13.00 : Break and Lunch
13.00 – 15.00 : Freedom of Religion in the United State by Gugun Gumilar (Alumnus of
SUSI RPA 2011) and Dr. Rebecca Mays (DI, USA)
Moderator : M. Ghufron Ashrovy (Alumnus of SUSI RPA 2012)
- 15.00 – 15.30 : Coffee break
- 5.30 – 18.00 : Introduction of Fish bowl and Fishbowl simulation
- 18.00 – 19.30 : break and dinner

19.30 – 21.30 : New Paradigm of Interfaith and Peaceful Ideal Nation Vision
“One Family under God” by Mr. James Poon
Moderator : I Gede Pandu Wirawan (Alumnus of SUSI RPA 2012)
21.30 - : Light out

Day 3 (30 Sept 2012)

06.00 – 08.00 : Individual activity and breakfast

08.00 – 18.00 : Worship and City Tour

- a. Temple of Penataran Agung Sriwijaya
- b. Ar-Rahman Islamic Boarding School
- c. Venue of SEAGames
- d. Vihara Dharma Kirti
- e. Protestant Church HKBP Yapon
- f. Catholic Church Santo Joseph
- g. Ampera Bridge

18.00 – 20.00 : Break and Dinner

20.00 – 20.30 : Reflection of Worship and City Tour

20.00 – 22.00 : Farewell Party

SPECIAL THANKS





Organized by :



In collaboration with :



Dialogue
Institute



Sponsored by :



Media Partner :



SPECIAL THANKS

GALLERY

Opening Ceremony



Singing Together : National Anthem Indonesia Raya



Dr. Rebecca, Ms. Meliani with Tanggai Dancer



Photo section of participants, committee and VIP Guest

Speakers



Ustad Muhyidin (Islam)



Pastor Blasius (Catholic)



Pendeta Lulus (Protestan)



Grivrya (Buddhist)



I Made (Hindu)

SPECIAL THANKS

Speakers



Dr. Rebecca (Dialogue Institute, USA)



Meliani Murtiningsih, MA (Dialogue Institute, USA)



Gugun Gumilar (Alumnus of SUSI RPA 2011)



Mr. James Poon (GPF Malaysia)

Unity in Diversity



SPECIAL THANKS

Curiosity



Fishbowl Simulation



SPECIAL THANKS

Worship Place and City Tour

Temple of Penataran Sriwijaya



Vihara Dharma Kirti

Ar-Rahman Islamic Boarding School



HKBP Church



Santo Joseph Church



SPECIAL THANKS

