



RELIGIONS FOR PEACE BANGLADESH CHAPTER REPORT 2019

Religions for Peace/ACRP Bangladesh Chapter has invested all its possible efforts for the promotion of its activities in Bangladesh. The green land of ours has been maintaining a long tradition of communal harmony where people live together and are observing their religious rites and festivals in a peaceful environment. There are some sporadic cases of violation, but the government is determined to ensure happy state of religious tolerance and communal harmony. Here we mention some of RfP/ACRP Bangladesh Chapter activities in brief.

An Executive Committee of the National Chapter was formed on 01.07.2016 after around five years. Some important leaders of the Chapter attended different seminars and conferences organized by other organizations in and outside Bangladesh to promote peace activities in last two years. Add to this, Principal Sukomol Barua (the then Secretary General & Convener, Ad hoc Committee, Bangladesh National Chapter) attended ACRP- EC meeting held in Beijing on 20-21.05. 2017 as an exclusive task of ACRP/RfP. Dipankar Barua (Secretary General-Youth of ACRP/RfP Bangladesh) also went to Jakarta for participating RfP Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp 2017 (12-15.12. 2017) organized by ACRP-SPEC and RfP Asia. In return, some high profile six-member delegation of China Committee of Religion and Peace (RfP/CCRP) visited Bangladesh from 24-29 December, 2016 headed by Senior Vice President of China Islamic Council on a friendly mission. Among the organizational activities of National Chapter a reception meeting that was held in honor of the said delegation was very important. Other Dhaka centered activities to promote peace were motionless due to some unavoidable circumstances, although honorable members of the chapter had capability of becoming speedier.

It is noteworthy that simultaneously a new and effective initiative was taken in 2016 to form Chittagong Regional Chapter by a group of interfaith leaders like Prof. Ranajit Kumar Dey (Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, BGC Trust University) and Prof. Dr. NHM Abu Bakar (Chairman, Department of Philosophy, University of Chittagong) , Ambrose Gomes (Church leader), Dilip Barua (Buddhist leader), Kanchan Barua (RKK activist) and others under the close guidance of Reverend Mitsuyuki Aritomi (Branch Minister, RKK Bangladesh) in the presence of many socially important dignitaries of

different religious traditions. This committee performed the following activities in consecutive manner:

A. Organizational Activities:

- i) Creation of background for organizing RfP
- ii) Group meeting (20.11.2016)
- iii) Introductory meeting for organizing RfP at Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong (29.11.2016)
- iv) Formation of Chittagong Regional Chapter (CRC) Committee on 30.12.2016
- v) First Executive Committee meeting of RfP-CRC (12.01.2017)
- vi) RfP Women Forum EC-CRC meeting held on 21.01.2017
- vii) Special meeting of RfP-CRC held on 16.01.2017 on Rohingya refugee issues
- viii) Installation Ceremony of EC, Chittagong Regional Chapter on 03.02.2017 at Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong
- ix) Joint Committee Meeting with Women's Network and Youth Network of CRC on 22.02.2017
- x) Holding of meetings of Women's forum(CRC) activities held on 05.01.2017, 13.02.2017 & 27.02.2017.
- xi) Meeting of Constitution Sub-Committee held on 01.05.2017
- xii) Holding of Meeting with dignitaries and leaders of different faith holders and formation of 25- members Convening Committee of Cox's Bazar District Committee at Fu-wang Dominous Resort ,Loboni Point on 11.05. 2017.
- xiii) An extended meeting of RfP-CRC Senior-Youth-Women Network held on 31.05.2017 at RKK Conference Room.
- xiv) Installation Ceremony of EC, RfP Cox's Bazar District Committee at Long Beach Hotel Cox'Bazar on 03.10.2017
- xv) Formation of Convening Committee for RfP Khagrachari District on 25.11.2017
- xvi) Formation of RfP Convening Committee at Rangamati District on 17.08.2017
- xvii) Introduction of RfP activities at Bandarban District on 20.03.2017
- xviii) RfP Chittagong Regional Chapter Conference-2017 held on 06.12.2017 at Chittagong District Council Auditorium

- xix) Hosting General Meeting of RfP-Bangladesh Chapter on 19.01.2018 at Long Beach Hotel, Cox's Bazar in presence of Rev. Mitsuyuki Aritomi and Rev. Masamichi Kamiya.
- xx) Adhoc Committee meeting of RfP Bangladesh Chapter held on 30.06.2018 at the RKK Conference Room, Chittagong for constituting a regular committee and it followed an extended meeting together with the representatives of different districts for the adoption of constitution on the same day.
- xxi) Extended meeting of RfP Bangladesh held at RKK Bhavan on 28.03.2019 regarding project implementation policy and upcoming national consultation to be held in June 2019.
- xxii) Several other meetings held on different emergency issues on different other dates.

B. Academic Activities:

- i) Seminar on 'Buddhism and World Peace' held at the Faculty of Arts Auditorium, University of Chittagong. Keynote speaker: Reverend Shoko Mizutani
- ii) Seminar on Inter-Religious Culture in collaboration with RFP-CRC Youth Network on 17.02.2017 at RKK Conference Room. Presenters: Prof. Ranajit Kumar Dey and Prof. Dr. NHM Abu Bakar
- iii) Seminar on "Searching for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in South East Asia and the Globe" held on 06.12.2017. Keynote speaker: Reverend Masamichi Kamiya (Senior Advisor, ACRP/RfP-Asia).
- iv) Seminar on Multi-Faith Issues organized by Women's Forum RfP-CRC held at Prattashi Auditorium on 26.08.2017
- v) A two day International seminar on 'World Peace through Interfaith and Intrafaith Dialogue' held at the Westin Dhaka on 27-28 November 2018

C. Motivational Meeting:

- i) At Sualok Para, Bandarban Hill District with local leaders, dignitaries and teachers on 30.03.2017.
- ii) At the Office of Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban Hill District on 30.03.2017
- iii) At Sadar Upazila Office, Bandarban Hill District on 30.03.2017
- iv) Holding of Meetings at Cox's Bazar City College on 11.10.2017

D. Health Awareness Program:

- i) Health Awareness Program for Children and parents at Sualokpara Govt. Primary School held on 30.30.2017
- ii) Health Awareness Program at Rangamti on 17.10.2017
- iii) Youth Network's at health awareness program at Banskhali, Chittagong & Khagrachari District.

E. Relief Activities:

- i) Family size mosquito net (1200) distributed among Rohingya Refugees of Myanmar at Balukhali, Kutupalong & Hinducamp, Ukhia, Cox's Bazar District on 12.10.2017
- ii) Distributed rice at Jamtoli Refugee Camp on 20.1.2018
- iii) Distributed Rice and spices at Hindu Rohingya Refugee Camp, Ukhia on, 21.12.2018
- iv) Distributed Rice at Nayapara Rohingya Refugee camp, Ukhia on 02.28.2018

With sincere and honest recognition of the dynamic activities of Chittagong Regional Chapter, Principal Sukumol Barua (the then Secretary General of RfP Bangladesh Chapter) took initiative in consultation with Reverend Masamichi Kamiya (Senior Advisor, ACRP/RfP-Asia) to reorganize RfP Bangladesh Chapter and convened a general meeting of RfP Bangladesh on 19.01.2018 (followed by the relief operation of dated: 20.01.2018) at the Hotel Long Beach, Cox's Bazar District which was attended among others by Rev. Masamichi Kamiya & Rev. Mitsuyuki Aritomi. It is noteworthy that a 24-member adhoc committee of RfP Bangladesh was formed at the General Meeting in place of the previous National Committee of RfP Bangladesh to activate the organization countrywide in future. Later, a regular committee of RfP Bangladesh Chapter headed by Principal Sukomal Barua (President), Prof. Ranajit Kumar Dey (Executive President) and Prof. Dr. NHM Abu Bakar (General Secretary) was formed in the ad-hoc committee meeting held on 30.06.2018 at RfP office.

In the meanwhile a delegation of leaders headed by Principal Sukomal Barua, Professor Ranajit Kumar Dey and Dr. NHM Abu Bakar participated in the EC meeting of ACRP held in Bengaluru, India from 16-18 April, 2018. A one year project titled "Children First in South Asia: A case study of the protection of children's rights and advancing their well-being in Bangladesh" has been approved for Bangladesh Chapter in the EC meeting.

Bangladesh Chapter also sponsored a two day International Seminar on “World Peace through Interfaith and Intra-faith Dialogue” at the Hotel Austin, Dhaka from 27-28 November 2018 in association with Religions for Peace Asia. It was attended by about 140 religious and interfaith leaders together with religious scholars and researchers from Bangladesh and international attendees from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

RfP Bangladesh leaders also participated in the 10th World Assembly Asia Regional Consultation of Religions for Peace held in Yangon from 4-7 March, 2019. Principal Sukomal Barua, Prof. Ranajit Kumar Dey, Dr. NHM Abu Bakar and Prof. Dr. Rashida Khanam took part actively in the different sessions of this consultation. They also attended a joint meeting with the leaders of RfP Myanmar on the immediate repatriation and other burning issues of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Prof. Ranajit Kumar Dey also made a presentation in a separate session of transforming conflicts on the same issue.

Presently RfP Bangladesh Chapter leaders have engaged themselves for an effective membership drive to strengthen its activities and popularize the objectives of RfP in all divisional headquarters of Bangladesh.

However, it's upcoming event is the National Consultation on RfP 10th International Assembly which will be held in next June, 2019 at Chittagong.

Prepared by:

Dr. NHM Abu Bakar

Secretary General, RfP Bangladesh

Dt. 03.04.2019

PHOTOGRAPH SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES



Installation Ceremony of RfP Chittagong Chapter EC at the Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong on 03.02.2017



Introductory meeting for reorganizing of RfP at the hotel Agrabad on 29 Nov 2019



Awareness Seminar on Interreligious Culture organized by RfP Youth Network, Chittagong on 17.02.2017



Participation of Youth Network Secretary at the Interfaith Youth Camp held Jakarta from 12-15.12. 2017



General Meeting of RfP Bangladesh Chapter held at Cox's Bazar on 19.01.2018



General Meeting of RfP Bangladesh Chapter held at Cox's Bazar on 19.01.2018



Installation Ceremony of Cox's Bazar Chapter (03.10.2017)



Health awareness program of RfP at Bandarban (03.10.17)

PHOTOGRAPH SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES



<p>A group photo after the seminar “World Peace through interfaith and Intrafaith Dialogue” at the Hotel Westin Dhaka (27-28 November 2018)</p>	<p>RfP Bangladesh delegation with the ACRP leaders at Bengaluru (India) ACRP Meeting (16-18 April 2018)</p>
<p>Garland offering to the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Museum, Dhaka by ACRP leaders attend the international seminar on 27-28 November 2018</p>	<p>International Seminar on World Peace Through Interfaith and Intrafaith Dialogue held at the Westin Dhaka under the sponsorship of RfP Bangladesh on 27-28 November 2018</p>
<p>A group photo during the visit of Yangon, Myanmar for RfP 10th Assembly Asian consultation on 4-7 march 2019</p>	<p>Participation of RfP Secretary General at the Sufi Conference held at Dhaka Krishid Institute</p>

PHOTOGRAPH SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES



<p>Children's attended health awareness program at Bandarban - 2017</p>	<p>Continental Commemoration of the March First Movement in North Korea 2019 – Principal Sukomal Barua participated the occasion.</p>
	
<p>Relief distribution of Youth Network during the flood at Manikganj</p>	<p>RfP President at CSDP-Faith Scholars and Development Workshop on 4-5 July 2018</p>