

Religions for Peace Asia & Pacific Interfaith Youth Network

RfP APIYN informs the following three issues as our activity report in 2017.

1. *Religions for Peace* Asian Interfaith Youth Peace Camp 2017
2. *RfP* APIYN Grants 2017
3. *RfP* Our Earth, Our Responsibility Campaign - Multi-Religious Youth Action on Climate Change

1. *Religions for Peace* Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp 2017

Date: 12th - 15th December 2017

Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

Theme: “Raising Awareness on Climate Change: Our Earth, Our Responsibility”

Number of Participants: 60 religious youth

from eight religions: Baha’I, Buddhism, Cheon-do-gyo, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Sun-tao, and Won-Buddhism; representing ten countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, and Sri Lanka

Hosted by ACRP Seoul Peace Education Center (SPEC)

Jointly organized by *RfP* APIYN, *RfP* Asia/ACRP, and *RfP* Indonesia

Cooperated with Youth Muhammadiyah

The discussions we had during the Camp were guided by the inspiration given to us by our distinguished speakers. The Governor of DKI Jakarta, Mr. Anies Rasyid Baswedan, provided a wonderful history of Indonesia, emphasizing unity in diversity. In the opening ceremony at the State Palace of Vice-President of Republic of Indonesia, senior political leaders in Indonesia and



Opening Ceremony

religious leaders of Religions for Peace inspired us, the Asian religious youth leaders, to combat climate change. Chairman of Muhammadiyah Central Board, Prof. Dr. Bahtiar Effendy emphasized on the importance of interfaith activities in the common action against climate change. The Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, sincerely encouraged and expected us to commit to global issues and work together. ACRP Senior Advisor, Rev. Masamichi Kamiya and ACRP SPEC Director, Rev. Teasung Kim emphasized

on the fact that the “Youth are the future” of the world, and that the APIYN is the future of ACRP. Religious youth leaders also deeply and scientifically comprehended the causes and effects from Climate Change and were stimulated to do specific practices and actions from the passionate keynote speeches from Prof. Pablito Baybado Jr. and Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin. While we were on our visit to Istiqlal Mosque and the Catholic Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Assumption, we recognized and impressed two religious sites co-existed in harmony. Through this experience in Jakarta, we have witnessed how Indonesia is a good example of how various religions can live together, respect each other, and work towards peace.



Istiqlal Mosque

Youth delegates experienced and researched in the local community of GEMASUCI (Gerakan Masyarakat Suka Ciliwung, “Peduli Ciliwung”, along with Ciliwung River in Jakarta. This allowed us to discuss and analyze our research and interview from local people in the community. We identified the causes and issues of Climate Change, such as air pollution, green house effect, irresponsible waste disposal in rivers and waters, and human over-consumption.



Fieldwork in GEMASUCI

Based on our common understanding, we commit to the following activities:

- To raise awareness on Climate Change to hold seminar and to show eco-friendly video through social media.
- To recycle plastic bags and bottles, reuse cups and reduce trash.
- To save energy while using public transportation and minimum use of water and electricity.
- To tackle global warming by planting tree.
- To remain connected through various social media platforms so we may continue to work together with the purpose to sustain our common actions that we commit to do.



Group presentation

The participants affirm, as religious youth leaders across Asia and the Pacific, that we have been strengthened by the bond of friendship amidst the diversity of faiths, traditions, and cultures.



State Palace of Vice-President of Republic of Indonesia

2. *RfP* APIYN Grants

RfP APIYN launched “Grant for Interfaith Youth Activity” in November 2016. The two objectives are (1) To strengthen and activate National Interfaith Youth Network; (2) To improve communication between Youth Network and national chapters. The grants are administered by *RfP* APIYN and supported by *RfP* Asia/ACRP. Amount of grant is US \$ 1,000 in maximum and up to two grants per year will be awarded. The proposed project should include concrete actions under the theme of 9th *RfP* World Assembly “Welcoming the Other” and 8th ACRP Assembly “Unity and Harmony in Asia,” with a focus on one or more of the following three issue areas: 1. Violent Extremism; 2. Refugee Crisis and 3. Climate Change. The proposal also needs to be designed (1) as interfaith youth activity; and (2) to include communication or collaboration with National Chapter during the implementation process.

As the proposal from Mongolia was awarded as 1st *RfP* APIYN Grants in the Youth Camp 2016 in Manila, Youth Network of *RfP* Mongolia implemented the project “Impact of Climate Change on Nomadic Way of Life” through three activities: 1) Workshop on ‘Interfaith Dialogue on Environmental Protection,’ 2) Field work, and 3) Discussion and personal reflection of interfaith team members on interfaith youth activity project. The project outcome was the following four points: 1) Start-up building network of youth from different religious traditions, 2) Awareness of climate change impact on nomadic herders’ livelihood and nomadic way of life, 3) Awareness of importance of interfaith activities for common goodness of society, and 4) Building visibility of the *RfP* and Mongolia National Chapter. The detail of the project is attached. As for the 2nd *RfP* APIYN Grants, APIYN officers and ACRP will award and

implement it.

3. *RfP Our Earth, Our Responsibility* Campaign - Multi-Religious Youth Action on Climate Change

RfP APIYN launched “*Our Earth, Our Responsibility*” Campaign in Youth Camp in Manila. *RfP* APIYN also proposed *RfP* International Youth Committee in Global Interfaith Youth Network. The IYC has made decision that the campaign should be widen internationally. This campaign “*Our Earth, Our Responsibility: Multi-Religious Youth Action on Climate Change*” calls on youth from diverse religions to unite and work together to protect the earth. The campaign will engage the world’s religious believers and all people of goodwill to accomplish the goal of the campaign: The earth is protected from the adverse consequences of climate change.

Report on ‘Impact of Climate Change on Nomadic Way of Life’ Interfaith Youth Activity Project

Grantor: *Religion for Peace* APIYN

Grantee and Project Implementer: *Religion for Peace* Mongolia National Chapter

Project period: November-December 2017

Organisations which participated and supported the project:

Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, Mongolian Muslim Association, Mongolian Bahai Association, the Dhammakaya Foundation of Thailand, Zanabazar Buddhist University, National University of Mongolia.

Interfaith team: Five youths from Buddhism, Islam and Bahai and the National University of Mongolia.

Participants: Over forty youths attended for the workshop on ‘Interfaith Dialogue on Environmental Protection’ from Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Thailand and the Russian Federation.

Project activities

‘Impact of Climate Change on Nomadic Way of Life’ Interfaith Youth Activity Project has been completed in the following three main activities:

- 1) Workshop on ‘Interfaith Dialogue on Environmental Protection’.
- 2) Field work.
- 3) Discussion and personal reflection of interfaith team members on interfaith youth activity project.

1. Workshop on ‘Interfaith Dialogue on Environmental Protection’

Workshop on ‘Interfaith Dialogue on Environmental Protection’ took place at the Library Hall, Zanabazar Buddhist University. Over forty youths from Mongolian Muslim Association, Mongolian Bahai Association, Zanabazar Buddhist University, National University of Mongolia from Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Thailand and Russian Federation attended the workshop. The workshop proceeded in the four parts:

- 1) Introduction on RfP and its activities and the project on ‘Impact of Climate Change on Nomadic Way of Life’ by Lkhagvademchig J, RfP Mongolia National Charter.
- 2) Lectures:

1. 'Impact of Climate Change on Nomadic Way of Life', I.Byambabaatar, the National University of Mongolia.
 2. 'Environment and Environmental Protection from the perspective of Buddhism', Ven.T.Ganzorig, Zanabazar Buddhist University.
 3. 'Environment and Environmental Protection from the perspective of Islam', Rev.R.Jailau, imam of Mongolian Muslim Association.
 4. 'Environment and Environmental Protection from the perspective of Bahai', N.Sanchir, member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Mongolia.
 5. 'Environment and Environmental Protection from the perspective of Christianity', S.Demberel, the National University of Mongolia.
- 3) Discussion on interfaith activities for environmental protection and other areas.



Highlights of the workshop:

- Objectives of the workshop included to gather youths from different religious traditions to understand other religions' teachings on environment and environmental protection, to create awareness and understanding of importance of interfaith activities for common goodness of society and to introduce and enhance visibility of the RfP and Mongolia National Chapter.
- Some youths from different religious traditions visited Zanabazar Buddhist University and Gandantegchenling monastery for the first time.

- According to N.Sanchir, member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Mongolia, the workshop became first ever organised interfaith workshop in Mongolia since 2013 when there was interfaith meeting on the occasion of the World Religion Day.
- Youths of religious followers and students of Religious Studies were invited for the workshop for the purpose of potential collaboration and mutual understanding between religion and academic studies.
- Youths which attended the workshop were not exclusively from Mongolia but from Inner Mongolia, Thailand and the Russian Federation.
- All participant organisations appreciated for organising interfaith workshop and expressed their willingness and support for future interfaith activities for environmental protection, advocacy of interreligious activities in future.

Proposals made by participant organisations on interfaith activities:

The following proposals made by participant organisations on interfaith activities:

- To plant trees in a designated place under the name of Peace Garden or Unity of Religion or any other name.
- To publish compiled book on environmental protection, tradition and practice in different religious traditions (Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Bahai).
- To publish compiled book which tells readers that what different religious tradition teaches some key concepts such as generosity, compassion, wisdom and other concepts for the purpose of creating awareness, understanding and unity between different religious faiths.
- To continue organise interfaith workshop/meeting and invite state officials, politicians and scholars.

2. Fieldwork on 'Impact of Climate Change on Nomadic Way of Life'

Interfaith team members conducted fieldwork outside of Ulaanbaatar, capital city of Mongolia. The team members visited herder family and took interview on impact of climate change on herders. Prior to conducting the fieldwork, members co-worked together for studying impact of climate change on herders, developing interview questions and learned one others' faith. After the fieldwork, the team members visited Buddhist temple and Islam mosque.



3. Personal reflection of interfaith team members on interfaith youth activity project

After the fieldwork, we discussed about the following five main questions related to the interfaith youth project.

- 1) What we learned about other faith's teachings on environment and environmental protection?
- 2) What we learned about impact of climate change on herders' life?
- 3) Does Mongolia need interfaith dialogue, understanding and activities? If needs why? If not why?
- 4) What is your opinion, suggestion, comment on the project?
- 5) Will you participate interreligious activities in future?

Highlights of the workshop:

- All members participated for the first time in interreligious youth project. Youths are happy for their participation. They expressed that they will happily involve in future interfaith youth activities.



In sum, under the leadership and guidance of Ven.Dr. T.Bulgan, Mongolia National Chapter, we see that the following outcome of the project is achieved through implementing the interfaith project 'Impact of Climate Change on Nomadic Way of Life'.

Project outcome:

- 1) Start-up building network of youth from different religious traditions.
- 2) Awareness of climate change impact on nomadic herders' livelihood and nomadic way of life.
- 3) Awareness of importance of interfaith activities for common goodness of society.
- 4) Building visibility of the RfP and Mongolia National Chapter.

Mongolia National Chapter would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Religions for Peace APIYN for supporting the project.