

## **Religions for Peace Philippines 2018 Activity Report**

Religions for Peace Philippines continued to animate the deepening of interfaith relations in the Philippines in 2018. It provided leadership and secretariat in organizing and coordinating the various programs and activities of the UniHarmony Partners Manila. The key event is the 2018 World Interfaith Harmony Week which includes the following activities: breakfast meeting with Cardinal Tagle of the Archdiocese of Manila with the religious leaders and members of the diplomatic corps; interfaith youth camp; conferences on World Hijab Day; Interfaith Celebration of the Chinese New Year; Human rights workshop for children in various communities, and others.

Religions for Peace Philippines coordinates the regular gathering (once every two months) of the 22 various religious communities and faith-based organizations. The gathering is held during an important religious celebration of the host religious community. The meeting consists of two parts: The first part is the presentation of the host religious community of the uniqueness of their faith; and, the second part is the business meeting where the partners review past events, and discuss future programs and activities. This regular gathering has become the venue for deepening friendship and provided the avenue for partnership between and among religious communities. For example, there is now an on-going inter-seminary dialogue between The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and the seminarians of San Carlos Seminary, the major seminary of the Archdiocese of Manila.

In commemoration of the UN International Day of Peace, which Celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Right, Religions for Peace Philippines organized the “Pro-Active Interfaith Response for Positive Change in Mindanao” on September 21, 2018 in Manila. Members of the Bangsamoro Transition Committee led by Chairman Mohaguer Iqbal discussed with key religious leaders to discern common action and the role of interfaith communities their pro-active response to the implementation of the Bangsamoro Organic Law in order to create a positive change in Mindanao.

RfPP conducted a workshop and dialogue meeting with RKK Delegation for their 7<sup>th</sup> Seminar of Training Facilitators for Peace and Reconciliation with the theme “Deepening Understanding of Reconciliation and Learning from its Practice of the field” on September 7, 2019 at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines.

RfPP Organized the Conference on Peace and Security in the Community: A Shared Responsibility on February 2, 2018 at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. The conference convened senior religious and youth leaders to reflect and discern common action as a response to enduring negative impact of the war in Marawi and the rise of religious extremism. which has displaced its people, and caused devastation in the entire city. The forum focused on the shared responsibility of each individual member of the community in securing peace as our response to this growing social threat. It hopes to

engage and mobilize the youth leaders to cooperate in ensuring peace and security in their communities.

**RfPP Youth Coordinator participated in the 2018 *Religions for Peace* Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp** with the theme **Taking Action on Climate Change Through Interfaith Cooperation** from December 17-20, 2018 in Yangon, Myanmar.

Religions for Peace Philippines coordinated the formation of the interfaith group in Cebu, Philippines. Through its linkage with Archbishop Jose Palma, the Archbishop of Cebu, the Cebu Interfaith Cooperation was established to organize activities for the World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration and other interfaith programs.