

Kingdom of Cambodia Nation Religion King



A BRIEFS ACTIVITIES REPORT OF CAMBODIAN INTER RELIGIOUS COUNCIL 2018-2019

Cambodian Inter-religious Council (CIC) has been established in October 2002 as a National Chapter of Religions for Peace. The establishment aims to bring together all the major religions in Cambodia to promote peace and social development in Cambodia. Since the establishment many activities have been conducted towards the fulfillment of the common aims. As the result, Cambodia has been noticed as a country that all religions are working hands in hands, zero inter-religion conflict, and full support from the government in term of religious freedom. Referring to the main aims abovementioned CIC has worked/ been working to promote common golden rules such as love, compassion, harmony, social development and justice, etc.

30th August 2018, Cambodian Inter-Religious Council with partners – Caritas Cambodia, Ministry of Interior, ministry of Cults and Religion, and other ministries – jointly organized 2nd Cambodia National Inter-faith Forum on COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING and His Holiness Tep Vong The Great Supreme Patriarch of kingdom of Cambodia, Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng minister of ministry of Interior, Senior Minister Him Chhem Minister of Ministry of Cults and religion presided over in the event which took place at Diamond Island, Phnom Penh City, Cambodia and there were 1500 participants from Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, officials from Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Cult and Religion, and other ministries.



The main purpose of the event:

- 1) Want to promote harmonious religious practice through working to promote harmonious society, peace building, and social development.
- 2) Want to send message to all people in the society to aware about human trafficking and be careful with human trafficking.

In the event, Senior Minister Him Chhem Minister of Ministry of Cult and religion mentioned that The Inter-faith forum on COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING is not just as a national but it is a regional and global event to work to promote human right. This forum is a testimony showing harmonious religious practice in kingdom of Cambodia. And this forum also shows about the commitment and joint implementation of all religions with

common mission to combat on human trafficking. Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng said even though the royal government and partners are working hard and lively to prevent, to protect, and to crackdown on all forms of human trafficking but the human trafficking activities remain exist. So, to eliminate the human trafficking we also need religious leaders and religious communities to help prevent and protect of human trafficking through assimilating the knowledge to all religious followers to know about the form, tactic, strategy, and the impact of human trafficking. More than that teach ones' followers avoid from human trafficking. When we all work together, the human trafficking would be eliminated. Beside the speeches and messages of all representatives, all religious traditions prayed together and flied the balloons with the messages:



- 1) Labor and sex exploitation are the sin that we must avoid.
- 2) We all absolutely against all forms of the crime of human trafficking and other crimes.
- 3) We, all genders and ages, are not product to be on sales and exploitation.
- 4) We support for giving justice for the victim(s) of human trafficking.
- 5) We commit to strengthen of our understanding of the impact of human trafficking to our communities for not falling into victim of this.
- 6) We together cultivate good deeds, help, and not discriminate the victim(s) of human trafficking in our communities especially women and kids.
- 7) Even we have different faiths, religions, and situation but we remain as brother and sister that we must take care and love each other.
- 8) We all absolutely support the royal government policy and law in promoting religious harmony in Cambodia.

6th-7th February 2019, Cambodian Inter-Religious Council, The Great Supreme Patriarch's office with HWPL organized the 2nd Religious Youth Peace Camp in Phnom Penh city at Buddhist temple and Mosque. In the event there were 45 participants from Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity. The Main purposes of this camp were:

- 1) to aware the important role of religions for world peace by discussing about the causes and cases of religious conflicts and teach how to solve religious conflicts.
- 2) to spread the culture of peace.

In this Youth Peace Camp, we did not use any complicate platform and agenda. It was really really simple one but very friendly way and effective. Here, we don't want to show about the result of the discussion of camping because it is not any much differences from what all conferences, workshops, seminars, or other meetings that used to do before. What unique and specific here are all participants gained real knowledge from discussion with leading questions and they felt very close-knitted with each other.



DAY 1

GROUP WORKSHOP 1

1. What are your future dreams?
2. Why do you want to participate in this camp?
3. What do you want to gain through this camp?

GROUP WORKSHOP 2 : Role of Religions

1. What is the reason mankind seeks religion? (What do you seek to gain through religion?)
2. What is something ONLY religion can offer mankind?

GROUP WORKSHOP 3 : Causes of Religious Conflicts & Disputes

Discuss in groups the causes of religious conflicts and come up with a group answer.

1. What is the cause of religious conflicts?
 - A. Fight for territory
 - B. Struggle for power and leadership
 - C. Economic benefits
 - D. Differences in ideology/doctrine
2. Who should be held most responsible for the religious conflicts that arise?
 - A. Leaders of the religions at conflict
 - B. All people that belong to the religion at conflict
 - C. Political leaders of the region where the religious conflict is occurring
 - D. All people that belong to the region where the religious conflict is occurring



DAY 2.

GROUP WORKSHOP 4 : Resolution to Situations of Various Religious Conflicts

Discuss in groups a way to resolve issues of various religious conflicts.

1. What do you think is the core cause of this conflict that needs to be addressed?
2. Do you think it is okay to start a war for such an issue? (ex: to take back a land important to one's religion?)
3. What is a resolution to resolve the core issue of such a conflict?

GROUP WORKSHOP 5 : Resolution to Religious Conflicts

Discuss in groups the ways religious conflicts can be resolved.

1. What kind of sanctions should religions and/or religious groups that cause conflicts and disputes receive?

A. Replace the leader of the religion and/or religious group that is causing conflicts

B. Fine(penalize) the religion and/or religious group that is causing conflicts

C. Sue the leader of the religion and/or religious group that is causing conflicts by taking them to an international court of law

D. Stop recognizing the religion and/or religious group that is causing conflicts as a religion at an international level

E. Other

2. Can religious conflicts be resolved by imposing sanctions on religions and/or religious groups that cause conflicts and disputes?

3. Can a resolution exist that completely ends religious conflicts? If yes, what would that resolution be?

A. Have a third party as a mediator to establish communication between two opposing religious parties.

B. All religions get together to make a common agreement on actions that religion must not take.

C. Create a sustainable meeting of religious leaders based on scriptures to learn about and mediate differences caused by differing ideologies.

D. Other

4. What is the most effective role the religious community can play in resolving religious conflicts?

A. Peace educations; Promote peace through action in one's life.

B. Volunteer for victims of war, participates in relief activities.

C. Urge and pressure the leader of a warring religion to stop the dispute/violence/war.

D. Actively search for the core reason for the cause of religious conflict and its solution.

E. Other



22nd February 2019 Cambodian Inter-Religious Council, The Great Supreme Patriarch's office and HWPL organized Religious conference on the theme : Peace Message for the Implementation of Peace Religion which presided over by His Holiness Tep Vong The Great Supreme Patriarch of Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Man Hee Lee The Chairman of HWPL, and representatives of Islam and Christianity. The event took place at Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh City, CaMBODIA and there were 400 participants from Buddhism, Islam,



Christianity, Government officials, and Civil societies. The main purpose of this conference: 1) to establish the identity of Southeast Asian nations and achieve peaceful societies. 2) to seek support from governments of each country for the UN adoption of the DPCW and leave peace as a legacy to future generations through establishing a legally binding instrument compatible with the DPCW. 3) to gain support for the unification of the Korean peninsula as Southeast Asia has been a crucial bridge to the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula with simultaneous diplomatic relations between South Korea and North Korea. 4) to take opportunity to cooperate and leap for economic and cultural development in Southeast Asia under the value of order and peace of the international community.

23rd March 2019, Cambodian Inter-Religious Council cooperated with Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University of Battambang branch, and Buddhism for Development Organization organized Inter-Faith dialogue on “ Role of Inter-Faith Youth Towards Social Harmonization for Peace in 21th Century” at Khemera Hotel, Battambang Province, Cambodia. In the event there were 132 participants who came from Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Bahai, representatives from NGOs working on Youth and Peace etc. The main purpose of this inter-faith dialogue:



- 1) To raise the interfaith youths’ awareness comprehensively on the importance of their roles in building social peace sustainable and progressive
- 2) To encourage all interfaith youths take part in the public dialogue on roles of religions and peace
- 3) To create a common rule after their discussion in order to disseminate continually to other stakeholders on roles of interfaith youths and peace.

In the event we had invited the Guest Speakers from All faiths to present their religious views on “ Role of Inter-Faith Youth Towards Social Harmonization for Peace in 21th Century” and set group discussion.

Guest Speakers from:

- Buddhism : to lead to live in a social harmony, Following the Four Noble Truths and The Noble Eightfold Paths enable youth to live and work with other religions harmoniously and to build truth, respect, and communication, youth create joint activities such: conference, workshop, dialogue, tree planting, and many other social activities.
- Christianity : Young people need to build peace together through :

- 1) Protect our common home-earth (save no plastic, Save water and energy, plant trees use only organic fertilizer),
 - 2) Build community (Eco-camp), community engagement, peace education, advocacy, and social reconciliations),
 - 3) End extreme poverty (well-being rights of children, well-being of women, health, education, and sustainable development).
- Islam: Confirmed on the roles of Muslim joint the social activities with other religions by focusing on the only one community and humanity, truth, love, kindness, and compassion as taught by Prophet Mohamad in the Quran scripture.
 - Bahai Community : explained the Bahai community contributing towards materials and social development in term of building peace and social harmony such as Children Spiritual Education, Human Resource Development, and Praying together.

Groups of Youth Discussion

group discussion divided into four groups of religions by focusing on the three main questions in order to define the appropriate resolution for interfaith youths working together in building peace and harmonization in community: (a) what are crucial roles of interfaith youths towards building peace in society sustainable? (b) What challenges of interfaith youths in social responsibility for building peace longer? And (c) how each religion uses the common golden rules to promote peace and social development among the interfaith youths in society? As result of discussions and presentations of each religious group, common findings condensed as below:



- Answers to question 1: education, empowerment and encouragement, dissemination and social activities together among inter-religions
- Answers to Question 2: discrimination, family and social discouragement, no trust, and lack of understanding on each religious principles and teaching
- Answers to question 3: obey the state laws and religious laws, religious study-tours and social works, and solve the social issues together.

Finally, representatives of each religion summed up, concluded, and recommended on a full day of interfaith dialogue as considered fruitful and intensive outcomes by providing the special opportunity for gathering, sharing, learning, and working together in the present, as well as the future soon; especially they thank deeply to Religions of Peace that supported fund to organize this workshop, and also to partners

cooperated and organized this special event. And they suggested that any workshops and meetings like this must be continued to organize at least a time or two times per year. The dialogue was ended under friendly and cooperative works among inter-religions.

