

REPORT : Sharing activities

Activities during Covid-19, May 2020 - March 2021

Institute for Inter-Faith Dialogue in Indonesia is an institution that co-exists with others under the umbrella of the "Indonesia Chapter" of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (ACRP) or Religions for Peace Asia.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to activities for the planned programs, Interfidei also carried out several special activities related to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

A. Activities planned before the pandemic:

1. Several trainings on "managing and interpreting differences" with youth and teachers in Yogyakarta Special Territory (DIY).
2. The Eleventh Inter-Faith School in Yogyakarta. The program of Interfidei is in cooperation with 3 (three) Universities (Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University, Duta Wacana Christian University, and Sanata Dharma Catholic University). The program has been running for 11 years, on the initiative of Interfidei. Then, the same program (SLI) is planned to host in Kupang NTT for the first time (which it will eventually be implemented online).
3. Lobbying with The Education and Sport Section of the Provincial Government (DISDIKPORA), Yogyakarta (DIY) for a joint program with high school level education in DIY in four districts and cities. The program specified is the training for Principals from 12 Schools (Public and Private) in DIY, as well as 30 teachers from all subjects (not only Religion and Citizenship teachers) who come from the same schools as school principals. This program collaborates with local governments (through DISDIKPORA) in order to strengthen Yogyakarta as The City of Tolerance in preventing, facing and overcoming the influence of intolerance and religious radicalism at schools in DIY.
4. Lobbying and zoom meeting with the advisory team (Parampara Praja) of the Governor of Yogyakarta in order to assist the Regional Government in preventing dealing, and overcoming intolerant and radicalism practices in Yogyakarta. Some of the outcomes namely: Interfidei helped to draft the Implementing Guidelines of the Governor Regulation/Instruction, in April 2019. It is suggested that the Implementing Guidelines could help the Governor and all Regents / Mayors to the Village, Municipalities and Regional County enabling to carry out their respective duties in order to prevent, face and overcome the problem of intolerance, religious radicalism in society.
5. The Webinar Series, which was held from June - December 2020 with the following themes:

- a) What are the lessons learned for Religion and Beliefs as well as how religions and beliefs have taken the Covid-19 pandemic in the lives now and in the future? This webinar involved the entire Interfidei network from all over Indonesia, all circles: government, campuses, teachers, youth, non-governmental organizations, media, artists, religious leaders and religious institutions, etc. From this webinar, Interfidei received input to determine the topics of the next webinar.
- b) The next initial webinar is specifically with teachers and with youth with the same intention.
- c) Therefore, starting the second week of September on every Friday from 14.00-16.00 (WIB), Interfidei conducts a webinar series on: Natural environment, forests, lakes, rivers, plastics with speakers from six regions (Papua, Kalimantan, Suku Anak Dalam -Riau, Poso, NTT and North Sumatra). Two series are with youth (in the framework of International Peace Day), which the first involves young people from all religions (inter and intra) as well as the disabled communities, transgender and Millah Abraham (ex-Gafatar). Moreover, there will be two series with teachers (the first on character education, the second on pluralist education).
- d) Apart from the aforementioned themes, Interfidei is also planning a webinar series until the second week of December, which the themes are about: Papua the Land of Peace (two series), Human Trafficking (two series), Religion and Politics (two series). All those webinar series are going to be done by Interfidei and the Indonesia Interfaith Network (Jaringan Antar-Iman Indonesia/JAII)
- e) The regeneration of Interfidei Board at the end of November (Board of 2021-2025) and the Strategic Plan for the next 5 years (2021-2025), while making several activities within the framework of Interfidei's 30 years (1991-2021).

B. Special activities in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic:

- a) Interfidei with MUKTI (youth alumni interfaith training, 2018) in addition to joining DRR-DIY in the fields of social work and education (of the other three: health, economy and information-communication). With PRB-DIY, Interfidei and MUKTI together with other NGOs, as well as religious institutions, local governments and educational institutions, artists.
- b) Apart from that, Interfidei and MUKTI also held solidarity, particularly with community members who had a direct impact economically, by distributing food to pedicab drivers, street children, and daily laborers.
- c) At the same time, together with network friends in Makassar and Banjarmasin, Interfidei held three activities:

1. For elementary school children in grade 6. They were asked to draw and write spontaneous writings on three things, namely: a) How did they feel during the Covid-19 pandemic regarding their daily lives and the education they are following? b) What do they think about it? c) What do they hope for the future, among the family, at school and in the community? What do they suggest to their parents, teachers and friends.

The results of their descriptions and their essays will be published in color. Each of them received two books: one for individual, and one for school.

2. For 50 young people from all over Indonesia with different religious backgrounds, beliefs and communities will write the same things: a) How did they feel during this pandemic? b) What do they think about it? c) What are their hopes for the future? d) What do they suggest to religious institutions (leaders, figures, people and organizations), to the government, to educational institutions and CSO community organizations?

Their posts will be published and each of them will receive two books: one for individual, and one for the organization; the origin institution.

3. For 30 teachers of various religions and nationalities from Banjarmasin, Makassar, Kupang, Ambon, Merauke, Jayapura, Lampung, Yogyakarta.

They are also expected to write the same questions: a) What was felt during their stay home by learning and teaching from home? b) what did they think about religious education and citizenship from this experience? c) What was expected in the future: religious education, education citizenship, including teaching materials, methods and character of education in Indonesia in the future? d) What schools and teachers need to do specifically as well as students and parents of the students? e) Suggestions to the government, the ministry of education, to religious institutions.

The writing will be recorded and each will receive two copies: one for individual, and one for school; and Interfidei will also provide education-related agencies.

It is hoped that all books will be published in February 2021 after going through the editing and lay-out process, then being launched in March 2021.

That is our sharing with these activities; hopefully it will be useful for many people.

Thank you,

Regards,

Elga Sarapung and the Interfidei team.

Yogyakarta, 25 September 2020.