

RELIGIONS FOR PEACE RfP - ASIA
ASIAN CONFERENCE OF RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

BEIJING, CHINA

MAY 20 – 21, 2017



ANNUAL REPORT
BANGLADESH CHAPTER

Religions for Peace RfP Asia/ACRP Bangladesh Chapter has been quite active and effective fulfilling the mission and vision of the organization. Here I mention some of our activities in brief.

Bangladesh is pride bound to possess an age old tradition of being a land of communal peace and relationship. Here the people of all glowing communities used to live together observing their respective rites and festivals. There are sporadic cases of violation, but it is our tremendous satisfaction that the present Government is determined to ensure the happy state of religious tolerance and communal harmony that exists in Bangladesh, is not allowed to be disrupted by any individual or group.

THE COMMITTEE:

2016 has been quite eventful. Particularly we had a General Meeting on 22nd November 2016. A new Executive Committee with 27 members were elected. It is my pride to hold that the Bangladesh chapter comprises resourceful personalities having exceptionally strong academic background and high profiles. Members included in this new committee have held and are holding high ranking portfolios representing divergent religious faiths.



Three Sub-committee have been formed in Chittagong, Bandarban & Cox's Bazar District under close guidance of Rev. Mitsuyuki Aritomi in the presence of many socially important dignitaries of different religious traditions.



Executive Committee Meetings:

Executive Committee meeting held from November 2016 till May 2017 RfP/ACRP Bangladesh Chapter has held as many as five Executive Committee at Dhaka University Teachers Student Centre.



ACTIVITIES:

We are promise bound to push forward the projects on the basis of Declaration of the Eighth ACRP and Ninth World Assembly of Religions and Peace.

Participation in different seminars and conferences:

- a) Prof. Kazi Nurul Islam, the President of RfP/ACRP Bangladesh Chapter took part in a round table discussion on “Islam and International Humanitarian Law” at Iran Cultural Centre, Dhaka on November 29th 2016



- b) Prof. Hirendra Nath Biswas, the Senior Vice President delivered speech at the Universal Peace Prayer held in Dhaka on 1st Decembefr 2016.



- c) Principal Sukomal Barua, the Secretary General delivered speech as a Special Guest at a seminar on Interfaith Peace and Harmony on 24th September 2016 organized by World Vision Bangladesh, Dhaka.



- d) Prof. Azizun Nahar Islam Head of Women Wing RfP/ACRP Bangladesh delivered her speech on G.C Dev Memorial Lecture, Dhaka University on March 15, 2017.

- e) Prof. Islam delivered his welcoming speech to the Parliamentary Members for Peace at Sonargaon Hotel on 10 January 2017.
- f) Prof. Islam delivered speech as the Chief Guest on Guru Granth Sahib at Hyderabad, India on July 30th 2016.
- g) Principal Sukomal Barua met H.E. Marcia Bernicat, US Ambassador to Dhaka and discussed on Minority Affairs.
- h) Prof. Islam attended Ram Krishna Mission Dhaka on the occasion of 181 Birth Anniversary of Ram Krishna Dev. He was the main speaker.
- i) Dr. Prof Biman Chandra Barua, Joint Secretary General organized a seminar on Buddha Purnima, Dhaka University and chaired the function.



- j) Principal Barua attended seminars and met religious leaders in Jharkhand and Bihar, India, February 2017.
- k) Prof. Islam delivered his speech as the chief guest at a seminar on The Teaching of Dr. MahanamBrata Brahmachari at Sylhet on April 10, 2017.

CCRP VISIT:

A six-member delegation of China Committee on Religion and Peace CCRP headed by Mr. Guo Chengzhen, Vice President of CCRP, Advisor and Former Vice President and Secretary General of China Islamic Association visited Bangladesh from 24th December to 28th December 2016 Other members of CCRP were Mr. Lacan- Secretary general of CCRP, Ven. Huang Xinyang- Deputy Secretary General of CCRP and Vice President of China Taoist Association, Ven. Jiongbo- Member of CCRP and Vice President of China Buddhist Association, Mr. Liping- Staff of CCRP and Ms. Chen Wenjie- Staff of CCRP.



They had several meetings with the members of RfP Bangladesh Chapter, Prof. AA M S Arefin Siddiqui- Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Religious Leaders at Shalban Buddhist Temple- Comilla, Teachers of Rampal Degree College, Religious and local leaders of Bajrajogini- the birth place of Great Atisha, Deputy Commissioner of Munshiganj.



CCRP leaders held meeting with Principal Motiur Rahman- Minister, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Director General of Islamic Foundation, Chairman- University Grant Commission.



They visited BaitulMukkaram National Mosque, Dharmarajika Buddhist Temple, Kakrail Christian Church, Dhakeswari Hindu Temple and the Vice Chairman- Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust and met Mr. B. H. Harun M.P.- Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Religious Affairs.

WOMEN WING:

Organized many seminars and meetings on interfaith and peace under the able leadership of Prof. Dr. Azizun Nahar Islam.

YOUTH WING:

The Youth Forum of Bangladesh Chapter has organized several seminars in and outside Dhaka on different issues related to promote moral education and curb corruption. A team of youth wing distributed winter clothes, books and stationeries to poor students and also scholarship to the indigenous school girls.

ACCOLADES:

The Bangladesh Chapter is proud to have learnt that its Chief Patron Most Ven. Satyapriya Mahathero was accorded with the prestigious **“Ekushe Padak”** Award for his outstanding contribution in the works of maintaining peace and harmony in society.

Prof. Islam was honored by the **“URI”** for his contribution in promoting interfaith harmony for last fifty years.

Principal Barua, Secretary General was awarded **“Swarupa”** by Sahityik Sangstha, Kolkata, India for his untiring efforts and helping develop culture of peace.

NEXT ACTION PLAN:

With these points in view, we would like to launch a project to be conducted by the Bangladesh Chapter of RfP/ACRP. The proposed project would be as follows:

- To establish communal harmony amongst divergent religious groups.
- To organize inter religious dialogues at different places of Bangladesh.
- To arrange talks, seminars and symposium in each district of Bangladesh.
- To motivate people of different faiths thru dialogue.
- To make change in the mindset and attitudes of extremist.
- Collaboration with other religious and peace organizations like International Association of Religious Freedom, United Religious Initiative, Universal Peace Foundation and Rissho-Kosei-Kai.

Other Activities:

To arrange intercultural activities like

- Sports
- Debates on controversial issues
- Tours to religious places
- Observance of each major religious festival

We need to extend concerted and tireless efforts to maintain social communal harmony of our country. Religious extremist may breathe fire into society for their petty personal, political and party interests and in this backdrop, we must act now involving religious leaders to raise hope and ensure peace of all communities of Bangladesh.

Lastly as we strongly believe that its activities would be expanded to the grassroots level of people conveying the ambrosial message of religions for peace to the common masses.

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