

**MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DIAN INSTITUTE/INTERFIDEI
IN THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST 2021.**

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN/FAMILIES/FRIENDS OF ALL RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS, FRIENDS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, WHETHER BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITH OR BECAUSE OF YOUR SOCIAL STATUS (TRANSGENDER AND DISABILITIES), YES, ALL SISTERS AND BROTHERS, FELLOW CITIZENS, FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS IN INDONESIA, AS WELL AS THOSE IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE WORLD WHO ARE PRESENT IN THE "MEETING ROOM" THIS EVENING OR MORNING OR AFTERNOON.

WE ARE THRILLED THAT WE COULD MEET, FACILITATED BY THE ZOOM TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGED AND SET IN MOTION BY HUMAN WORKERS, THE MEDIA TEAM FROM THE AUDIO-VISUAL CENTER OF SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY, YOGYAKARTA, AND THE INTERFIDEI TEAM.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR EVERYONE'S PRESENCE, INCLUDING OUR NETWORK FRIENDS AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. WE ARE EQUALLY THANKFUL FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF LOCAL, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, LEADERS AND FIGURES OF RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENTS WORKING ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, THE ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS PLURALISM, AND MANY MORE. ONCE AGAIN, WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT AND SINCERE BROTHERLY LOVE FROM EVERYONE.

INTERFIDEI WAS BORN AS AN INSTITUTION THAT EXISTED AND OPERATED UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY IN YOGYAKARTA. BUT IT STARTED AS AN EMBRYO, FOLLOWING THE JOURNEY OF ITS INITIATORS AND FOUNDERS FROM YOGYAKARTA, JAKARTA, THE NETHERLANDS, THE USA, AND THEN IT CAME BACK AGAIN, ENTERING, BEING BORN, LIVING AND DEVELOPING IN YOGYAKARTA. THEN FOR 30 YEARS IT SOWED THE SEEDS OF PEACE BY PEACEFUL AND HUMANE WAYS, PROMOTING PEACE IN VARIOUS REGIONS IN INDONESIA, FROM THE END OF WEST PAPUA, IN MERAUKE, SORONG, MANOKWARI, AND PAPUA IN JAYAPURA, NABIRE, WAMENA, TO SUMATRA IN ACEH, PADANG, MEDAN, PEMATANG SIANTAR, BENGKULU, LAMPUNG AND OF COURSE WE CANNOT MISS OTHER AREAS IN KALIMANTAN, SULAWESI, MALUKU, TIMOR, BALI, JAVA. IN THESE PLACES, WE SOWED THE SEEDS OF PEACE AND GAINED A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THROUGHOUT MANY ENCOUNTERS, OPEN, HONEST, CRITICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND COOPERATIONS WHICH LATER PROVIDED REFLECTIONS AND FRESH IDEAS AND PRACTICES, ABOUT HOW DIFFERENCES CAN BECOME A COMMON FORCE FOR PEACE THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, INSTEAD OF A FORCE THAT DESTROYS AND KILLS EACH OTHER.

MANY FRIENDS FROM MOST OF THE AREAS MENTIONED EARLIER ARE TOGETHER HERE ON THIS 30TH ANNIVERSARY NIGHT.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE SEEDS OF PEACE, SOWN IN PEACEFUL AND HUMANE WAYS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY, NATION, AND HUMANITY WITHOUT DIFFERENTIATION, LET ALONE DISCRIMINATION, WILL ALWAYS LIVE AND THRIVE.

INDEED, IT'S NOT EASY, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE. WHAT'S THE RECIPE? THE ANSWER IS WORKING WITH ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES PRODUCED FROM CONSCIENCE AND NOT BEING EASILY SWAYED BY ANY FORCE AND POWER THAT ONLY CARES ABOUT "FIXED PRICES" AND NOT THE "PRICE OF LIVES". YES, RELIGIONS AND BEING RELIGIOUS MUST ORIENT TOWARDS LIFE AND EXISTENCE THAT IS MUTUALLY REVITALIZING, NOT DESTRUCTIVE AND DEADLY. THAT'S WHAT WE MEAN BY FAITH AND DIALOGUE: A LIFE THAT IS QUICKENING – A FORCE THAT IS MUTUALLY REINFORCING.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN/FAMILIES/FRIENDS,

WE COULD NOT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL OF THIS WITHOUT THE HELP, COOPERATION AND BROTHERLY LOVE OF ALL OUR NETWORK COLLEAGUES AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS, ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS AND WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS EVERYWHERE.

WE DID START IN A COMPLICATED POLITICAL SITUATION IN INDONESIA. ALONG THE WAY, THERE WERE MANY DYNAMICS IN SOCIETY, THE NATION AND THE STATE. THERE WERE MANY CHALLENGES WITHIN AND WITHOUT, AND THERE WERE ALSO THREATS. OUR PRINCIPLE: GOOD DEEDS IN A GOOD WAY, MUTUAL RESPECT AND PEACE FOR CONCORD CAN NEVER BE EXTINGUISHED BY ANY FORCE OR POWER OF ANY FORM. THAT'S OUR PASSION. SO IT'S NOT JUST THOUGHTS, NOT JUST POWER. IT IS NOT JUST MONEY BUT CONSISTENCY IN THE COMMITMENT AND INTEGRITY OF OUR FAITH AND THE PRAXIS OF OUR FAITH IN LIVING WITH DIFFERENT FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS, AND THE UNIVERSE AND ALL OF GOD'S CREATION, FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMON LIFE AS A WHOLE.

THEME: "RELIGION AND BEING RELIGIOUS FOR PEACE"

SUB-THEME: "BE RELIGIOUS IN A HEALTHY MANNER, RESPECT AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND BE IN SOLIDARITY FOR A PEACEFUL LIFE TOGETHER AMONGST MANKIND, THE UNIVERSE AND THE CREATOR".

THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS THEME AND SUB-THEME EMERGED FROM EXPERIENCES DURING THE PANDEMIC COMBINED WITH 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE BEING PRESENT IN THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY WITH THE YOUTHS, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITY-BASED RELIGIOUS LEADERS, AS WELL AS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENTS FRIENDS WORKING ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN SOCIETY AS WELL AS ACADEMICS ON CAMPUSES, GOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS AND BELIEF INSTITUTIONS (LEADERS AND FIGURES OF RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS). WITHOUT WORKING TOGETHER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT OUR WORK SATISFACTORILY AND ACHIEVE EXPECTATIONS. ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER COULD WE DO SO!

OUR EXPERIENCE OF 30 YEARS GIVES US OPTIMISM AND HOPE THAT WHAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN WORKING FOR SO FAR WILL PRODUCE ENCOURAGING RESULTS. WE ARE NOT WORRIED AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE, BUT OPTIMISTIC AND ALWAYS HAVE HOPE BECAUSE MORE AND MORE YOUNG GENERATIONS, YOUTHS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS, EVEN FROM VARIOUS ELEMENTS, WOMEN AND MEN, ARE WILLING AND COMMITTED TO BEING PEACEMAKERS IN PEACEFUL WAYS. YES, WE NEED TO REVIVE THE *PEACE RADICALISM* MOVEMENT INSTEAD OF *VIOLENT RADICALISM*. OUR MOVEMENT, THE MOVEMENT OF RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS, MUST BE ENSURED TOWARDS PEACE RADICALISM!

TONIGHT, WE DON'T HAVE "TUMPENG" AS THE SYMBOL OF THANKSGIVING BECAUSE WE HAVE ALREADY DISTRIBUTED THE "TUMPENG" TO RESIDENTS WHO ARE SELF-ISOLATING, THOSE EXPOSED TO COVID-19, AS WELL AS TO RESIDENTS OF NEARBY VILLAGES, WHERE INTERFIDEI IS, PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED OF AID, AS WELL AS THE STREET CHILDREN, *BECAK* DRIVERS, DAILY WORKERS AFFECTED BY COVID-19. THAT IS THE "TUMPENG" FOR US, TO THE PEOPLE IN DIRE NEED OF OUR ATTENTION AND SOLIDARITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN/FAMILIES/FRIENDS,
STAY HEALTHY, EVERYONE, LIVE THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL SOLIDARITY, REST ASSURED OUR FUTURE IS IN THE EMBRACE OF GOODNESS AND A QUICKENING LIFE.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING. GOD BLESS!
GREETING,
ELGA SARAPUNG
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUT DIAN/INTERFIDEI