

# Annual Report:

## Korean Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP) 2023

### Korean Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP) Projects

#### 1. Interfaith Stay

KCRP provided interfaith experiences to the general public through its “Interfaith Stay” program, where participants had the opportunity to learn about the seven major religions of Korea while staying at different religious facilities for one night and two days. This year’s Interfaith Stay Program was conducted from September 1st to 16th 2023, under the theme “Different is Also Beautiful”, with about 200 participants.

#### 2. Monthly Korean Newspaper <Joggyo wa Pyeong Hwa>

KCRP publishes a monthly newspaper called “Jonggyo wa Pyeonghwa”(Religion and Peace in Korean). The newspaper covers a wide range of topics related to the seven religions represented by KCRP. It has firmly established itself as a premier media outlet in Korea, promoting mutual understanding and dialogue among various religious communities.

#### 3. ACRP Contribution Support

KCRP donated 20 million Korean Won to ACRP as part of their efforts to promote peace among Asian religious communities and worldwide.

#### 4. Carbon Neutrality Action Campaign

The Campaign called for all the seven religions under KCRP to discuss strategies on fostering collaboration between religious organizations for the implementation of various environmental initiatives and carbon neutrality policies. To determine how the religious sector can contribute to carbon neutrality practices, KCRP conducted the campaign in two parts:

- (1) conducting discussions on carbon neutrality practices for each of the seven religions,
- (2) producing a promotional Animation video for the campaign
- (3) promoting the campaign both through online and offline

## **5. Religious Youth Peace Camp**

The Camp was held for two nights and three days from December 20 to 22, 2023 in Seoul, Korea. The agenda of the camp this year centered on the introduction of Youth Committee of KCRP and WRP Japan as well as discussions on collaborative programs for the coming year.

## **International Peace Corps of Religions (IPCR) Projects**

### **1. Interchange of Religious Leaders from North and South Korea – Discussion Forum**

Due to the prolonged lack of civilian exchanges between the North and South, internal organizations within unification-related groups have weakened. This forum contributed facilitating active future exchanges between the two Koreas, reconstructing and support of organizations dedicated to North-South exchanges and aid to the North. It is held in December 5, 2023 in Seoul with active peace makers and organizations.

### **2. Interfaith Seminar on Islam and Interfaith Exchanges**

From September 4 to 6, 2023, the interfaith seminars were held to address negative perceptions of Islam as a religion and the Muslim culture as well as to promote its peaceful integration into the Korean society. The discussions also covered various issues from democracy in Iraq and Mindanao Conflict.

### **3. Northeast Asia Seminar**

The aim of this seminar was to explore practical approaches that religion can take to reduce tensions in Northeast Asia. The seminar was co-hosted by KCRP, RfP Japan, and CCRP, and took place from December 6 to 8, 2023 in Kobe, Japan. The participants discussed a range of perspectives from each country, with a particular emphasis on the themes of Post-COVID, peace, and natural disaster.

### **4. Quarterly Magazine <Religion & Peace>**

The IPCR publishes a quarterly English magazine called <Religion & Peace>, which covers a broad range of topics related to religion, both within and beyond Korea.

## Seoul Peace Education Center (SPEC) Projects

### **1. Religious Youth Peace School**

This program aimed to reflect on the sites of modern history in Northeast Asia and the Japanese colonial invasion era, enhancing awareness for peace in Asia. It took place from July 10 to 15 2023 wherein youth members of the seven religions represented by KCRP participated in its Peace School and Peace Pilgrimage programs. The activities and lectures were designed to educate the participants about religious peace, dialogue, conflict prevention and modern history.

### **2. Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp**

It was held in Seoul, DMZ area in Korea from February 20 to 23 2023 with the theme "Asian Youth as Advocates of Unity, Peace, and Humanity". The programs included discussions, workshops on environment and peace building, and DMZ tour. The camp was attended by approximately 35 individuals, including religious youth from ten different Asian countries.