



PROGRAM REPORT INTERFAITH YOUTH FORUM 2014

“Huma Betang: Unity in Diversity”

Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

November 19 - 22, 2014



**Youth Interfaith
Community**



Foreword

We would like to say thanks to participants, speakers, and sponsors for your keen engagement and the ideas you shared in the series of activities in the Interfaith Youth Forum 2014. Following the previous forum held in Palembang (2012) and Bali (2013), Interfaith Youth Forum (IYF) 2014 was an outstanding success beyond our most optimistic expectations. The highest in the history of the first Interfaith Youth Forum held in Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia on the theme "Huma Betang: Unity in Diversity".

As future leaders of the societies, youth play very important role in creating and building peace and harmony. This forum was attended by 26 future leaders from across Indonesia. During 4-amazing-day in Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, this forum provided them an opportunity to exchanging knowledge, ideas and lessons learned from theirs, experts, speakers and local people.

It has been great experience for all the member of committees involved in this forum. On behalf of the organizing committee, we do appologize profusely because we fully realize that the organization of this forum is certainly not without any flaws. Especially for the participants, I congratulate undergoing routine and incidental activities wherever you are. Make the city of Palangka Raya as unforgettable memories in order to establish our togetherness in the pursuit of happiness of this life.

I Gede Pandu Wirawan, S.IP
President
Youth Interfaith Community

Ahmad Rafuan
Chairperson
Interfaith Youth Forum 2014



1.1 Introduction

Religion has been sensitive issues in society which, in fact, might lead to misunderstanding and conflicts. The work report of the SETARA Institute (a human right organization) shows in 2012 the events happened 264 times of religious freedom with 371 forms of violence. Start of closure or sealing of houses of worship, discrimination, intolerance to omission.

This figure is up from 2011 last year, in which 244 cases were recorded with 299 forms of violence. Cases of violations of freedom of religion / belief are found in nearly all parts of Indonesia. West Java tops the list with 76 events, followed, Aceh, Central Java, East Java and South Sulawesi.

In Central Kalimantan there is a pilosophy, called Huma Betang. Huma Betang means a long house -a traditional house where can be lived by everyone from various backgrounds regardless race, religion, etc or in other word "our house together". It shows that we never lost togetherness values in diversity. We have to embrace the diversity to build a strong nation.

Based on this situation, we came up with an idea to make an Interfaith Dialogue Program: Interfaith Youth Forum 2014. Interfaith Youth Forum is an annually forum for Indonesia young leaders initiated by Youth Interfaith Community –that focuses on effort to empower and build the capacity of young people with respect to tolerance issues and interfaith dialogue. The first forum was held in Palembang in 2012 and the second forum was held in Bali in 2013. This year Youth Interfaith Community in collaboartion with Indonesia Youth Dialogue organized Interfaith Youth Forum 2014 in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

DAY I



1.2 Program Contents

• WELCOMING DINNER

Hosted by State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Palangka Raya, the welcoming dinner attended by participants and VVIP guests from Global Peace Foundation Indonesia, UNESCO Office in Jakarta, U.S Embassy in Jakarta, Palangka Raya youth leader and American Alumni in Palangka Raya. The welcoming was held in Education Quality Assurance Agency (LPMP) Central Kalimantan.

The first agenda was welcoming remark from the Chairman of IYF 2014 and The Representative of IAIN Palangka Raya. Then, the committee played videos about Study of the U.S Institute on Religious Pluralism 2012 & 2013 alumni and Interfaith Youth Forum 2012 & 2013 aiming to give all audiences a view about IYF and SUSI RPA programs.

DAY II



2.1 Grand Opening and Public Seminar of Interfaith Youth Forum 2014

• OPENING CEREMONY

- The opening ceremony started by singing national anthem "Indonesia Raya" and then report from IVF 2014 Chairperson, Ahmad Rafuan. He stated that the reason behind IVF 2014 in Palangka Raya is because he hope that Palangka Raya will be the city of tolerance and being examplary from other city in Indonesia.
- I Gede Pandu Wirawan as a President of Youth Interfaith Community delivered his introduction about IVF 2014. The aim of Interfaith Youth Forum 2014 is to give better understanding to Indonesia youth about the beauty of diversity especially religion and faith and also to equip participants with interfaith dialogue skill.
- Ms. Sekarpuri Fransisca Stella as a State Alumni Coordinator U.S Embassy in Jakarta expressed her proud to alumni of Study of the U.S Intitutes on Religious Pluralism could implement this program. She also hope that there will be Indonesia youth who be able to contribute in building peace and better world.
- The representative of Central Kalimantan Province Governance, Mr. I Ketut Widi Wiryawan officially open Interfaith Youth Forum 2014. In his remark he thank for the committee who organize IVF 2014 in Palangka Raya. He hope all the participants could enjoy the Central Kalimantan' cuisine and tourism.

• KEYNOTE SPEECH

- Prof. Leonard Swidler and Ms. Meliani E. Murtiningsih from Dialogue Institute in Philadelphia, USA delievered first keynote speech via Skype conference. They said congratulation for the third Interfaith Youth Forum 2014 and they are really proud with the alumni of SUSI RPA program where they trained in 2012 and 2013 could collaboration to implement the third Interfaith Youth Forum 2014. Prof. Len also explained the importance of dialogue who not only for interfaith or interreligious but also for intrafaith or intrareligious because No Body Knows Everything about Anythin.
- The second keynote speech from Dr. Krisnayadi Toendan as a Head of Education Quality Assurance Agency (LPMP) Central Kalimantan. In his speech he stated that we have to accept and embrace diversity not to avoid it so that we can live in harmony.



"Merajut Ikatan Kebersamaan Dalam Keberagaman"

20 November 2014, di Aula STAIN Palangka Raya



• PUBLIC SEMINAR

The public seminar was attended by 200 students and held in State Islamic Intitution (IAIN) Palangka Raya' auditorium. There were three speakers in this seminar and led by Robinson Sinurat, the Vice President of Youth Interfaith Community.

- a. Dr. Marko Mahin, a lecturer and antropologist explained about "The values of Peace and Tolerance in Dayak' society". Dayak is heterogeneous and plural, both culturally and religious, but had bonding or feelings of love and proud identity as Dayak, and has a self-awareness that they are the same and it is the social unity, even perhaps a descendant or ancestor. There are four peace values in Dayak' society :
 - Tipuk Danum - a cleansing ritual vengeance and hatred between the two warring parties
 - Hakabuah -the peace process, or a rapprochement between the two warring parties.
 - Hambai, Hatunding Daha-Hangkat Hampahari -process adoptive brother to break the chain of violence or revenge circle between the two warring

- b. Shintya Rahmi Utami, an Executive Director of Global Peace Foundation shared the experience of GPF Indonesia programs in creating peace and tolerance. Shintya talked about youth empowerment through social media. She said social media could promote peace as long as it was not used to provoke people to carry out intolerant activities. "Do not provoke others to do the wrong thing by using social media. Use social media to do the right thing," she instructed.



- c. Philip Klotz from Carlo Schmid Fellow at UNESCO Office in Jakarta explained about the universal values of tolerance. Peace and conflict are created by people. "It depends on us. We can choose between peace and conflict, by considering the universal human rights perspective and our responsibilities," he stressed, adding that such a youth forum was the answer to recent doubts about Indonesia's capability to provide every citizen with the right to freedom of religion.

AFTER THE PUBLIC SEMINAR, NATIONAL PARTICIPANTS DEPARTED TO HOTEL TO JOIN THE NEXT SESSION.

• PLURALISM AND TOLERANCE IN PERSPECTIVE ISLAM, CHRISTIAN, BUDDHIST AND HINDU.

Mr. I Gede Pandu Wirawan led this discussion by brainstorming the participants with the question about tolerance in their religion and then the discussion continued with the respectable religious leaders from Islam, Christian, Buddhist and Hindu in Palangka Raya. We invited those religious leaders to do a dialogue with the participants regarding the teachings of each religion about religious pluralism and interfaith tolerance. The purpose of inviting these religious leaders is to set an example for the participants that an interfaith dialogue is possible, regardless of the differences of the religions themselves.

The religious leaders really understand the topic and spoke right on the goal as we all expected. The participants were full of enthusiasm to asking question. We could conclude from material of the religious leaders that there is universal values in those religions in Indonesia such as love, peace, humanity and unity. So that, if there is someone hurt other, it's not caused of religion but the human-self who did not understand their religion. None of religion teach hatred and violence to the followers.



• AN INTRODUCTION TO INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND DIALOGUE FISHBOWL

Mr. I Gede Pandu Wirawan shared his knowledge about an Interfaith Dialogue that taught by Dialogue Institute Staff when he was participate in SUSI Program. First, he explained about definition of interfaith dialogue. Interfaith Dialogue is cooperation, constructive and positive interaction between people of different faith traditions. There are three misconception of interfaith dialogue: an effort to create new religion, an opportunity to convert others and belief in a dialogue is only a debate.

In addition, he also explained that there are three goals of interfaith dialogue: first, to gain an understanding and acceptance the difference, second, to struggle against negative conditioning and fanaticism and third, to open the door of the listening, communicating and respect.

According to the dialogue Decalogue that formulated by Prof. Leonard Swidler, there are ten rules for dialogue : (1) The essential purpose of dialogue is to learn, which entails change, (2) Dialogue must be a two-sided project: both between religious/ideological groups, and within religious/ideological groups (Inter- and Intra-). (3) It is imperative that each participant comes to the dialogue with complete honesty and sincerity. (4) One must compare only her/his ideals with their partner's ideals, and her/his practice with their partner's practice. Not their ideals with their partner's practice.

(5) Each participant needs to describe her/himself. (6) Participants must not come to the dialogue with any preconceptions as to where the points of disagreement lie. (7) Dialogue can only take place between equals, which means that partners learn from each other—par cum pari according to the Second Vatican Council—and do not merely seek to teach one another. (8) Dialogue can only take place on the basis of mutual trust. (9) Participants in dialogue should have a healthy level of criticism toward their own traditions. (10) To truly understand another religion or ideology one must try to experience it from within, which requires a “passing over,” even if only momentarily, into another's religious or ideological experience.

Participants tried to understand by asking many questions to make them really understand about the rule of the interfaith dialogue.

HOW TO MAKE AN ACTION PLAN

DAY III
(Friday, November 21st, 2014)



Before starting this session, the local committee invite all the participants to do brain games. The aim of this game was to test the concentration of the participants because some of them look so tired and sleepy.

The third day of Interfaith Youth Forum 2014 traversed by heavy rain in Palangka Raya so that "Unity Ball" session moved to the forth day. After having breakfast all participants gathered and ready at class-room to get material "How to be a Leader" from Mrs. Rebecca Mays, Executive Director of Dialogue Institute.

HOW TO BE A LEADER?

This session conducted via video call Skype.

This session led by Mr. Agus Burniat, a secretary of Youth Interfaith Community. He shared his knowledge and experience to make an action plan. Starting by definition of action plan, he also explained that a good action plan have to use SMART (Specific – Measurable – Achievable – Realistic – Timebound) method. Not only gave material to participants, he also showed and gave an action plan sample to make participants more understand.



In the end of the skype conference, participants had 15 minutes to coffee break before next session started.

• PLURALISM IN LOCAL WISDOM "HUMA BETANG (BETANG HOUSE)"

This session was presented by Mr Marko Mahim, a professor and anthropologist of the Theological School of the Kalimantan Evangelist Church (STT-GKE). As other ethnic groups also experienced war and conflict both with each other and with the outside tribal tribe.

But on the other hand also has the values of peace

- Tipuk Danum: is a cleansing ritual vengeance and hatred between the two warring parties
- Hakabua: The peace process, or the restoration of relations between the two warring parties
- Hambai, Hatunding Daha-Hangkat Hampahari: Process adoptive brother to break the chain of violence or revenge circle between the two warring parties
- Belom Penyang Hinje Simpei: Pillars of Life and Peace for Shared Prosperity



Sublime and noble values of peace and tolerance are not only found in religious teachings but also in the history and practice of Central Kalimantan Dayak community life Dayak culture has contributed to the realization of peace and tolerance in Central Kalimantan.

• DIALOGUE "FISH BOWL" AND THE SIMULATION



The main objective of this forum is to equip participants with resolution conflict through dialogue. This session also to teach participants how to practice a dialogue in good and right way. Mr. Pandu not only remained them the ten command of dialogue decalogue but also give an explanation about communication skill in a dialogue.

Communication skill –AIR or A (Appreciative Inquiry), I ("I" Statement), R (Reflective Listening). In interfaith dialogue, we also need critical-thinking in accepting informations and asking ome questions for clear information, as follows :

- What do you exactly mean? What is precisely the thought?
- Where did "the thought" come from?
- Where is "the thought" going and what does the future look like if we hold "it"?



After that, participants divided into small group with different topic. For the first, most of the participants felt emotional in dialogue, but the mentors reminded them again about the rule of interfaith dialogue. Dialog is very different with debate. We need to learn and respect other opinion in a dialogue.

• SERVICE PROJECT PREPARATION

Participants divided in three groups to make hand-craft. The local committee taught them how to make some hand-crafts from scraps. All the participants were seriously learn and make the hand-craft as close to perfect as possible. Because the result of their work will be given to orphange on the next day.

• DRAMA PERFORMANCE



IYF event is not only serious session but also we encourage the participants to be creative by performing drama with the theme of the material they got. Although they had limit time in preparing, but they could show their maximum performance and deliver universal values such as love, peace and unity.

♥ Heart to Heart



Heart to heart is a session where the participants learn to trust other and share their sadness or happiness. The participants divided to make a couple in same gender. We asked them draw their life curve with musical accompaniment. We gave them 20 minutes to share their story with his/her couple and trust them as a family. Less than 10 minutes some of them looked cry, laugh and serious with their couple. After that, we asked them to make a big circle to reflect about this session. It was very touchy session because we teach them to trust with other and learn from other story life.

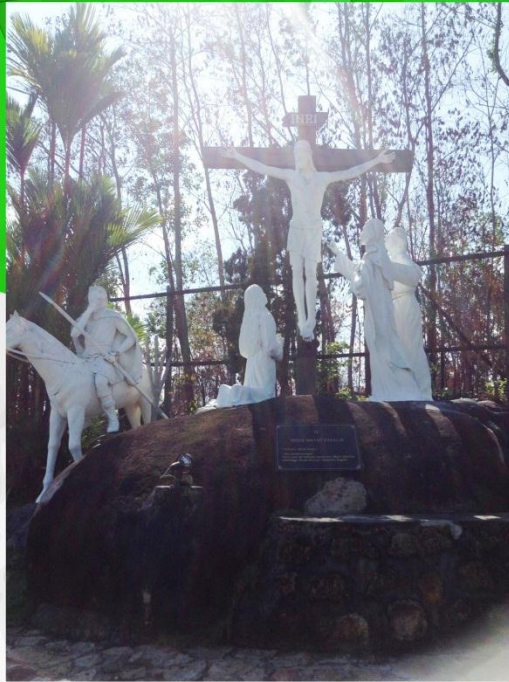
DAY IV

• DIVERSITY TOUR

The enthusiasm got higher on the fourth day where the participants got the chance to visit worship places and city tour. In the morning at 5 a.m all the participants were ready to play "Unity Ball" that taught them about leadership and team-work.

The tour was started by visiting Huma Betang which is traditional house of Central Kalimantan and then visited Bundaran Besar and took pictures in the front of house of Governor of Central Kalimantan. After that we started to visit worship places. The first one was historical church in Palangka Raya GKE Immanuel and then Mosque Nurul Iman, Balai Basara as Hindu Kaharingan worship place, Pura Pitamaha, Katedral Santa Maria, and the last worship place was Vihara Avalokitesvara. For most of participants, visiting worship places was new and even thought as forbidden, but after the visits they understand that visiting worship places are accepted as long as they follow the rules of the place as a sign of respect and appreciation to the religion.





After visiting worship places we continue to Bukit Carmel as holy hill for Catholic but public can visit for tourism. We saw some statues that tell story about Jesus journey. Some of Catholic participants pray in Bukit Carmel.



We visited Nyaru Menteng as captive Orang Utan and that we went to Sukarno Monument and took group picture with beautiful background Kahayan Bridge as Palangka Raya icon. The last place that we visited was Al Mim Orphanage, participants gave their motivation to the children and hope someday they become great leader for Indonesia.



• ACTION PLAN PRESENTATION

Although most of them looked very tired after worship and city tour but they did not want to pass the last night program just sleeping. They're still enthusiastic to play game that taught them problem solving and team work.



The action plan led by Mr. Agus. He divided participant based on their region (Surabaya – Borneo – Jogjakarta- Jabodetabek – Makassar). Surabaya group had an idea to teach and empower children from “Doli” localization environment about the importance of tolerance and education. The idea Borneo group is to make an interfaith camp for high school students. Jogjakarta group want to conduct research about universal value in each religion that will be used for Interfaith Youth Forum 2015. Makassar group focused on environment issue in Makassar to support the Makassar government to realize Makassar is cleaning city. And the Jabodetabek team focused on citizen journalism where they will train the youth to use social media as a tool to create clear information.



Participants Interfaith Youth Forum 2014

Name

University

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Abdul Muas | Universitas Trisakti |
| 2. Ahmad Fawaid | Universitas Islam Negeri Maliki Malang |
| 3. Andi Iin Nindy Karlinda Kadir | Universitas Hasanuddin |
| 4. Devi Mustika Sari | IAIN Banten |
| 5. Disca Betty Viviansari | Universitas Airlangga |
| 6. Fransiskus Amos | Universitas Tanjungpura |
| 7. Haji Abdul Karim | IAIN Palangkaraya |
| 8. IKadek Kartike Yase | Pascasarjana Ilmu Hukum Agama Hindu
STAHN-TP Palangka Raya |
| 9. IMade Raditya Suputra Sanjaya | Universitas Gadjah Mada |
| 10. Indra Dwi Prasetyo | Universitas Tanjungpura |
| 11. Isyna Izzal Muna | Universitas Negeri Semarang |
| 12. Khaidir Hasram | UIN Alauddin Makassar |
| 13. Kharisma Wisnu Sesanty | Universitas Brawijaya |
| 14. King Amil Hamzah Al Hakim Shodikin | Universitas Gadjah Mada |
| 15. Lis Pratiwi | Universitas Padjajaran |
| 16. Maya Rumpo | Universitas Lambung Mangkurat |
| 17. Mohammad Roisul Ashdaq | STAIN Salatiga |
| 18. Muhammad Rangga Efrizal | Universitas Gadjah Mada |
| 19. Nugroho Rudy Pradhana Bastam | Universitas Airlangga |
| 20. Oki Ma'arif | Universitas Palangka Raya |
| 21. Petrus Holiaga Krisma Gumarang | Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember
Surabaya |
| 22. Putu Widiane | Universitas Palangka Raya |
| 23. Rusdiansyah | Universitas Palangka Raya |
| 24. Satria Taru Winursita | Universitas Gadjah Mada |
| 25. Sisih Dwi Muray | Sekolah Tinggi Agama Kristen Negeri
(STAKN) Palangkaraya |
| 26. Uzman Hilvan Mahani | Institute Pertanian Bogor |

CLOSING CEREMONY

Interfaith Youth Forum 2014 officially closed by President of Youth Interfaith Community, Mr. I Gede Pandu Wirawan. He hope that IYF 2014 will be memorable and all the participant commit to create peace and harmony in their community.

The committee distributed sertificate to all the participants and announced the best participants and the best picture of photo-contest on twitter. After that, we did photo group with all the participants.

Activity Schedule

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

11.00 – 18.00 WIB	Check In/welcoming participants, registration of participants and lunch.
18.00 – 19.00 WIB	Welcoming dinner
19.00 – 20.00 WIB	Introduction
20.00 – 20.30 WIB	Ice Breaking
20.30 WIB	Rest

Thursday, November 20, 2014

06.00 – 07.30 WIB	Breakfast
07.30 – 08.30 WIB	Go to IAIN Palangka Raya
08.30 - 09.00 WIB	Interfaith Youth Forum 2014 Opening Ceremony
09.00 - 11.30 WIB	Seminar
11.30 - 13.00 WIB	Break and lunch
13.00 – 14.00 WIB	Introduction of Pluralisme and Interfaith
14.00 – 14.15 WIB	Coffee break
14.15 – 15.45 WIB	Pluralism in perspective of Islam, Catholic, and Christian in an effort to build the nation's ideals of peace
15.45 – 16.00 WIB	Coffee Break
16.00 – 17.30 WIB	Pluralism in the perspective of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism in the effort to build the nation's ideals of peace
17.30 – 19.00 WIB	Break and dinner
19.00 – 20.00 WIB	Introduction of Fishbowl Dialogue
20.00 – 21.00 WIB	How to make an action plan
21.00 WIB	Rest

Friday, November 21, 2014

06.00 – 07.00 WIB	Breakfast
07.00 – 08.45 WIB	Fishbowl part 1
08.45 – 09.00 WIB	Coffee break
09.00 – 10.30 WIB	Pluralism and tolerance according Dayak values in an effort to build the nation's ideals of peace
10.30 – 13.00 WIB	Break and lunch
13.00 – 14.30 WIB	Fishbowl part 2
14.30 – 17.00 WIB	Service Project Preparation
17.00 – 19.00 WIB	Break and dinner
19.00 – 20.00 WIB	Drama Performance
20.00-21.30 WIB	Heart to Heart
21.30 WIB	Rest

Saturday, November 22, 2014

06.00 – 08.00 WIB	Breakfast
08.00 – 16.00 WIB	Worship places tour + Huma Betang + Bukit Carmel + Nyaru Menteng
16.00 – 17.00 WIB	Back to LPMP
17.00 – 19.00 WIB	Break
19.00 - 19.30 WIB	Dinner
19.30 - 20.30 WIB	Action plan Presentations
20.30 - 22.00 WIB	Closing and Certificate

Through this report, we would like to express our thanks to those, both individuals and institutions, which have provided moral and material assistance as follow:

Individuals:

Prof. Leonard Swidler, Dr. Rebecca Mays, Dr. Juliet Swidler, Meliani E. Murtiningsih (Dialogue Institute), Sekarpuri Fransisca Stella (Alumni Coordinator US Embassy in Jakarta), Shintya Rahmi Utami (Global Peace Foundation Indonesia), Pdt. Julito A.Ma, Pd, Drs. Oka Swastika, SH, M.Si, Pdt. Untung Christian J.E. S.Th, Drs. Ahzar Slamet, Kepala LPMP (Dr. Krisnayadie Toendan), Dr. Marko Mahin and Philipp Klotz.

Institutions:

IAIN Palangka Raya, LPMP Kalteng, Dialogue Institute, Global Peace Foundation Indonesia, US Embassy Jakarta, GKE Immanuel, Balai Basara, Pura Pitamaha, Mosque Nurul Iman, Katedral Santa Maria, Vihara Avalokitesvara, Bukit Carmel, BOS-Nyaru Menteng, Al Mim Orphanage, Bank Kalteng, PT. Hutama Karya, Pengadilan Agama Palangka Raya, Kementerian Agama Kalteng

Core Committee: I Gede Pandu Wirawan, Robinson Sinurat, Agus Burniat, Rafuan Ahmad, Santi, Humairah.

Committee:

Ahmad Rafuan
Santi
Humairah
Khairil Anwar
Muhammad Hasfi
Mentari Kencana K.B
Sri Suswita
Siti Fatimah
Amalia Hikmah
Nana Apriliana
Siti Ardiana
Fahrurija Estipan
Risqi Hidayat
Muhammad Alfi
Muhammad Hamzah A.M
Ahmad Syarifuddin
Rudiyanto
Agusthynus C.I.T
Desta Christianto
Jimmy S.
Rahmat Firdaus
M. Arpiansyah

Media Cover

Berbeda-beda, tetapi Tetap Satu di Kota Toleransi

Untuk ketiga kalinya, kegiatan bertemakan pemuda, keberagaman, perdamaian, dan toleransi, Interfaith Youth Forum, diadakan selama 4 hari, 19 hingga 22 November 2014, di Gedung Lembaga Penjaminan Mutu Pendidikan (LPMP), Palangkaraya, Kalimantan Tengah. Sebelumnya, IYF dilaksanakan di Bali (2013) dan Palembang (2012).



Sebanyak 50 pemuda terpilih dari sekitar 200 pelamar yang dilakukan secara online. Mereka yang terpilih dianggap memiliki

Peserta kegiatan pemuda, keberagaman, perdamaian, dan toleransi, Interfaith Youth Forum, 19 hingga 22 November 2014, di Palangkaraya, Kalimantan Tengah.

Palangkaraya selaku Ketua Penyelenggara Interfaith Youth Forum (IYF) 2014, mengatakan, Kota Palangkaraya dipilih sebagai kota yang pas untuk merepresentasikan perdamaian dan toleransi.

jadi dialog sebagai salah satu alat peredam konflik yang muncul akibat perbedaan ataupun keberagaman. "Bukan hanya dialog untuk saling mengerti dan dimengerti, melainkan ini dialog yang menghasilkan aksi nyata.

versal dan bertani. Seperti penyele belumnya, pengurangan dan interaktif kilan tokoh-tokoh Indonesia pun n Empat pemikian: berdialog mengu perspektif Islam, tostan, Hindu. Ba dalam upaya men damasian bangsa. Sesi ini pun tanya jawab pesen ngurut karena k perspektif agamo mengup terganti paham ketika pe tanyaan terjawab. Inilah pentingnya an yang baik aka miliki pengertian : konflik muncul ak halkan tidak pal Akhirnya, ada ke lamnya. Dengan e jadi tahu dan bel beragaman serta dan yang ada.

Learning tolerance from Dayak society



Tolerance in practice: Participants of the Interfaith Youth Forum pose in front of a Hindu temple in Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan. The temple is part of an event taking place from Nov. 19 to 22.

The values of peace and tolerance of the Dayak people in Kalimantan could be a model for pluralistic society in Indonesia, Marko Mahin, a professor and anthropologist of the Theological School of the Kalimantan Evangelical Church (STT-GKE), said recently. He was speaking at an Interfaith Youth Forum (IYF) 2014 in the Central Kalimantan capital of Palangkaraya organized by the Youth Interfaith Community (YIC). The forum was organized to provide young people with a deeper understanding of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance among followers of different religions. "Dayaks are heterogeneous and plural, both culturally and in terms of religion, but have bonding or feelings of love and a proud identity as Dayaks, as well as a self-awareness that they are the same, leading to social cohesion," said Marko, who got his doctorate degree from the University of Indonesia.

Deputy Central Kalimantan governor I Ketut Widi Wirawan hosted the event at Palangkaraya's state-run Islamic Institute (IAIN Palangkaraya). The other speakers included Shintya Rahmi Utami of the Global Peace Foundation Indonesia and Philipp Kloetz and Carlo Schmid, fellows at the UNESCO office in Jakarta. Sharing Marko's view, Ahmad Rafuan, chairperson of IYF 2014, said: "I hope that Palangkaraya can be a role model for tolerance in Indonesia because Palangkaraya has a local wisdom called *Huma Betang* which means a traditional long house occupied by people with different backgrounds, including different faiths. Is that not comparable to the world in which we live?"

Meanwhile, Shintya talked about youth empowerment through social media. He said social media could promote peace as long as it was not used to provoke people to carry out intolerant activities. "Do not provoke others to do the wrong thing by using social media. Use social media to do the right thing," she instructed.

Philipp Kloetz explained about the universal values of tolerance. Peace and conflict are created by people. "It depends on us. We can choose between peace and conflict, by considering the universal human rights perspective and our responsibilities," he stressed, adding that such a youth forum was the answer to recent doubts about Indonesia's capability to provide every citizen with the right to freedom of religion.

Organizers of the event also invited religious speakers: Julito (Buddhism), Oka Swastika (Hinduism), Unung Christian (Protestantism), Ahzar Slamet (Islam) and Floriano Suninono (Roman Catholicism). They were involved in a dialogue with the participants regarding the teachings of each religion about religious pluralism and interfaith tolerance.

ROBINSON SINURAT
JAKARTA

Your letters

Sponsors and Partners



Dialogue Institute



GPF INDONESIA
Global Peace Foundation Indonesia



Lembaga Penjamin Mutu Pendidikan
Provinsi Kalimantan Tengah



Bank Kalteng



**Compailed and Written by:
Agus Burniat
and Interfaith Youth Forum 2014 Committee
Desember 2014**

**Designed by:
Khairil Anwar**