

# The Peacebuilders

## *Special Edition*

**"Keeping the ICF Circle informed; Connecting with Community of Interreligious Peacebuilders"**

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### Inside this issue:

SoP 2018 runs  
towards program  
conclusion **1**

World Peace  
Convention 2018:  
Seoul Declaration  
on a Peaceful fu-  
ture of the Korean  
Peninsula and East  
Asia **1**

APAY GS visits  
SoP 2018 Partici-  
pants **3**

Reflection: I can  
take more chal-  
lenges in life **4**

SoP 2018 Participants  
gets Orientation on  
Community Organiz-  
ing **5**

Korea National  
Council of YMCAs  
hosts World Peace  
Convention 2018 **6**

## SoP 2018 runs toward the program conclusion

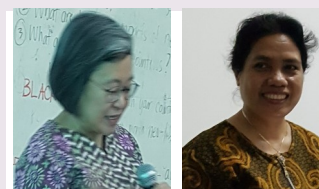
The two-month School of Peace set from October 1 to November 28 organized by ICF at Pusat Pengembangan Spiritualitas of Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana in Yogyakarta is now in its 7th week. The seventeen participants from nine countries at this time are taking up the practical courses and skills in the peacebuilding curriculum that are set for the second month.



Mr. Tirmizy Abdullah

On the first week of November, the topics taken up were peace issues in relation to Neoliberal economy, human rights and other UN Conventions and Protocols, with facilitator Tirmizy Abdullah, a faculty of Mindanao State University in Marawi and an SoP alumnus.

Dr. Tabita Christiani discussed the subject on disability and the rights of PWDs, while Dr. Asnath Niwa Natar took charge of the session on gender justice. Both Christiani and Natar are faculty members of Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana (UKDW).



Dr. T. Christiani and Dr. Natar

The topic on the roots of terrorism was facilitated by Dr. Abdul Gaffar Karim.



Dr. Abdul Gaffar Karim

Ms. Amina Mambuay was set to facilitate the workshop on Nonviolent  
-continue to p. 2

## World Peace Convention 2018: Seoul Declaration on a peaceful future of the Korean Peninsula and East Asia

Under the theme "Restoration of Just Relations, Historical Reconciliation and Nurturing a Culture of Peace for Sang-Saeng (Life Together) in the Korean Peninsula", 250 peace-loving citizens from 17 countries met

together at World Peace Convention 2018 held in Incheon, Cheorwon and Seoul, Korea from 29<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

We learned from theme presentations and symposia on peace and

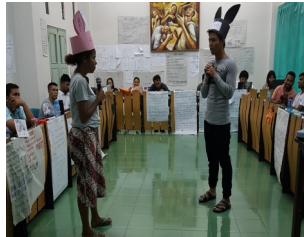
conflict-related topics. We also had the benefit of hearing the diverse experiences of participants from several countries that had gone through conflicts of various kinds – racial, ethnic,  
-continue to p. 6

"True peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of justice."

- Jane Addams, first woman to receive Nobel Peace Prize, 1931

## School of Peace 2018 now runs . . . .

Communication. But the airport doctor did not allow her to board her plane when her blood



Rina and Thura testing out the NVC exercise on the Giraffe and Jackal language.

pressure went up so high.

Thus, the task fell on the shoulders of the ICF Coordinator, Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro. During the course on NVC, the participants did exercises on "giving from the heart" in making observation without evaluation, recognizing and expressing their feelings and needs, and how to make a request clearly. The exercises on the use of Giraffe and Jackal lan-

guage made use of current SoP dynamics.



Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro

Ms. Josefina Villanueva facilitated the workshops on Peace Education. The sessions were laden with work  
- continue to p. 3

## World Peace Convention 2018: Seoul Declaration on a Peaceful . . .

religious, colonial and ideological. They spoke about their efforts for healing, reconciliation and peace-building. We also visited Cheorwon DMZ area witnessing the stark reality of the long-lasting suffering of divided nation and people of Korea.

### The Context of the World Peace Convention:

We, participants of the World Peace Convention 2018, have witnessed a long and perseverant journey of the Korean people towards democracy and peace. Among the most recent developments is the candle light revolution during 2016-17, which led to the birth of a new democratic government. South Korea's

President Moon Jae-In is pushing forward a peace-building process on the Korean Peninsula by engaging proactively with the DPRK and the USA.

The Korean Peninsula peace movement must be seen in a broader historical perspective. In the context of recent geopolitical dynamics in the region and beyond, the Korean peace movement has shown the need for pivotal action in order to untie the entangled knot of the dominant status quo, which is ruled by global hegemonic superpowers.

### We affirm that:

-It is solely the Korean people's inalienable right to make decisions for their own national future. Therefore, we are in

strong solidarity with the peoples' initiatives for building a lasting peace. We believe the empowerment of citizens/peoples is key to peace-building process.

-- There is a strong interconnectedness between peace-building efforts of Korean people and world peace movements, which share many of the same values. We recognize the continued vulnerability of the candle-light revolution in South Korea in the face of the interests of superpowers surrounding the Korean Peninsula. Therefore there is a strong need for building/strengthening solidarity with world peace movement initiated by diverse groups of global citizens.

- continue to p. 3



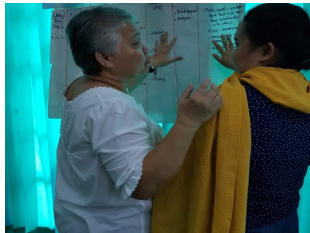
Imjingak Park in Paju, Gyeonggi-do Province, one of the nearest places to the North Korean border where public access is allowed. (Korea.net DB)

Source: <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Society/view?articleId=164889>

## School of Peace 2018 now runs . . .

shops and practicums in teaching-learning strategies, module making and journaling.

During the sessions



Ms. Jo discussing the module prepared by Bai's group.

on Peace journalism, the

facilitator, Ms. Mary Jean Lee Patindol, challenged the participants to develop a keen eye in analyzing news items brought by mass media. They learn how to recognize the difference between peace/conflict oriented journalism and war/violence journalism. They also tried re-writing some existing news items from the perspective of peace journalism. Then, they practiced writing straight news articles.



Ms. Jean Lee Patindol

Both Ms. Villanueva and Ms. Patindol are from University of St. La Salle, Bacolod, Philippines.

The week was capped with a workshop on batik-painting. ♪ ♪ ♪

## APAY GS visits School of Peace 2018 participants

The participants of School of Peace 2018 received Mr. Nam Boo Won at the Pusat Pengembangan Spiritualitas of UKDW after the YMCA World Week of Prayer held at the Plaza Hotel, Yogyakarta on November 18, 2018. This Center for Spiritual Development is home for the two-month School of

Peace, a program of the ICF-APAY. Mr. Nam, as General Secretary of Asia-Pacific Alliance of YMCAs is based in Hong Kong. "The SoP, as one of the ICF programmes, doesn't only mean an intensive workshop but it's a kind of long-term social movement among youth, developing their personal transfor-

mation and contribution to peacebuilding in our society," said Mr. Nam. He continued, "I've witnessed the serious participation of the participants through the sessions here. I believe they will apply what they've learned and practice into their respective home countries as the context needs." ♪ ♪ ♪

- by Thura, Rani, Kwang,



SoP 2018 Logo design by Muhammad Jose Rizal "Moris" Harjo Pawiro



Mr. Nam with some SoP participants.



Mr. Nam with NGS Retha, ICF Coordinator Muriel, and Program Officer So-pharak

## World Peace Conference 2018: Seoul Declaration on a Peaceful . . .

- The present moment is a Kairos time to strengthen people's networks so that civil society's peace renaissance can blossom beyond borders!

- A paradigm shift is called upon: The current "Strategic Security-first" paradigm seeks to maintain a "peace" by relying on a constant militarized war-

footing. This paradigm needs to be replaced by a "Peace-first" paradigm, which seeks alternative mechanisms that will build trust, instill confidence, promote mutual understanding and dialogue, seek non-military solutions, and enable the free flow of ideas towards a shared Korean vision of unity and reunification.

### Our commitments to people-led civil society actions:

Peace and reconciliation is accomplished by fostering relationship and solidarity. The most effective way to do this is to create opportunities for direct dialogues at all possible levels. In practical

-continue to p. 5



## REFLECTION: I can take more challenges in life

True peace educators may get tired, but they do not give up. They do not quit.



- Jo Villanueva  
Peace educator

I am thankful that the program of the School of Peace included a valuable homestay in this beautiful village in Dusun Ngiringin, Batur, Salatiga. During this short two and one half days of stay, I learned several things. The location does not seem to be so different from my country, Sri Lanka. But the people and their way of life taught me many things.

I felt that my host family offered me their hospitality with their whole heart. Even though there was language barriers, they were patient to communicate with me through sign language, which was quite funny for us. The volunteer interpreter with me, Aaron, who is from Salatiga was always eager to assist me.

Most families in this

village, I have observed, are very industrious. My Pak Slammat works hard and aimed to harvest 50 kgs. of tomatoes and 30 kgs. of chillies every five days. This surprised me because a kilo of tomatoes is sold only for IDR 2,000 while a kilo of chillies is sold for IDR 20,000. He rents the land for IDR 5000,000 annually. Most of the families in this village have milking cows. Pak Slammat's other job is to collect the milk twice a day—early morning and late afternoon, and take the milk to the milk center where the milk is pasteurized or processed.

Ibu Shumini, Pak Slammat's wife, takes care of the household chores. She contributes to the family's daily income by working in the processing

of milk into yoghurt. It was in her work place that I learned the process of yoghurt making.

During this short stay in Dusun Ngiringin, I found myself realizing deeply about the satisfaction of living simply and in harmony even with more challenges. I could take even more challenges now to learn about life deeper. Overall, the homestay was another great learning experience for me. ❧ ❧ ❧

- Joyson Jaffry Chelvarajah  
Sri Lanka, SoP 2018  
<jaffry.j15@gmail.com>



Mr. Saleh Abdullah  
(5th from the left)



Simulation game on CO

## SoP 2018 Participants Gets Orientation in Community Organizing

The School of Peace participants studied the concepts and skills in community organizing in peace work as a part of the SoP curriculum. Mr. Saleh Abdullah, an expert in community organizing based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia facilitated the workshop on November 19 and 21, 2018 at Pusat Pengembangan Spiritual of the Fakultas Teologi of Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The session began with a

workshop on knowing oneself and seeing things from a different view, which is fundamental in CO. He said that we must know more about ourselves first before doing a community organizing. He put the participants to work in small groups to explore the concepts of the topic on CO. Mr. Saleh Abdullah said, "we should address the questions that could lead us into appropriate mission and strategy that

we can apply in the community." He emphasizes the importance of knowing one's own capacity and commitment in doing CO. He discussed the steps and factors to consider in community organizing. He told the participants that in CO, "you must know the level and role of your involvement. Do not underestimate the people's capacity and experience. Believe in their ability and potential." ❧ ❧ ❧

- by Bai, Thena, Ranny,  
Rina, and Tanya

## Korea National Council of YMCAs hosts . . .

sharing as a witness to achieve peace in society. The eleven workshops were focused on peacebuilding case studies and the role of people in peacebuilding, gradually but powerfully.

### Peace Convention Part 2. Peace Pilgrimage at Korea Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

The Peace Pilgrimage was held at Cheorwon City, located near North Korea. It included a big memorial ceremony for war victims held in front of the former North Korea Labor Party building. This building used to be on North Korea side of the border before the war but is now located within South Korea territory. Then participants climbed up to Soi Mountain

to pray for reunification of the Korea Peninsula.

### Peace convention Part 3. Peace Cultural Festival with Peace March and Seoul Declaration

For the final part of the convention, all the international participants joined the Peace Cultural Festival at the Gwang Hwa Mun Square in Seoul. Over 1,000 local Korea YMCA members and other NGOs marched together to the central area of Seoul calling for peace in the Korean peninsula. The statement called "Seoul Declaration on a peaceful future of the Korea Peninsula and East Asia" was adopted at the end of the march. The declaration affirmed that "it is solely the Korean people's inalienable

right to make decisions for their own national future." The statement affirmed that a strong solidarity with the peoples' initiatives, and empowerment of people is key to durable peacebuilding process. It further affirmed the importance of interconnections in the peacebuilding efforts of Korean people and world peace movements. It calls for strong solidarity among peace movements as it recognizes the "vulnerability of the candle-light revolution in South Korea in the face of the interests of superpowers surrounding the Korean Peninsula."

- Ji Yoon LEE  
APAY Intern



Peace March to the central part of Seoul calling for peace in Korean Peninsula



Press Conference adopting the Seoul Declaration on a peaceful future of the Korea Peninsula and East Asia

## World Peace Convention 2018: Seoul Declaration on a peaceful . . .

terms, we commit ourselves to concrete actions within the three major objectives:

1. Advocacy for peace: Support the current summit process and engage in dialogues at all levels of society.

\*Join efforts for ending the Armistice and declaring peace (treaty) in Korea.

\*Lobby UN to end the UN Command structure in Korea, and advocate for a phased end to UN Security Council and other sanctions. Security Council and other sanctions.

2. Public education

\*Prepare and disseminate educational material that provides background to the Korean conflict and efforts toward peace

and reconciliation.

\*Challenge mass media when they publish unfair interpretation of facts and events.

\*Use alternative media to propagate positive stories on inter-Korean relations, including delegation visits to and from North Korea.

3. Dialogue and cooperative relationship building:

\*Provide humanitarian aid, food security and development assistance.

\*Encourage people-to-people contacts via mutual visits, cultural, academic, artistic, sporting and other exchanges.

\*Organize information sharing, capacity building, and educational/awareness-raising programs.

We need to turn either/or thinking into both/and thinking. We need to transform win/lose propositions into win/win strategies.

We therefore call for a global solidarity with the people's democratic and non-violent initiatives towards a lasting peace in the Korean Peninsula.

1<sup>st</sup> November 2018  
Participants of World Peace Convention 2018



## INTERFAITH COOPERATION FORUM

Asia and Pacific Alliance  
of YMCAs  
23 Waterloo Road 6/F  
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Phone: +852-27808347

Fax: +852-23854692

E-mail:

APAY@asiapacificymca.org

**We are on the Web!**  
<[interfaithforum.org](http://interfaithforum.org)>



Ceremony for the war victims in front of the former Labor Party building

### ***"Keeping the ICF Circle informed; Connecting with Community of Interreligious Peacebuilders"***

The Interfaith Cooperation Forum is a program of Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs. It values the significance of interreligious understanding and unity. Thus, it offers opportunities for study and appreciation of the different perspective of religions on peace, and discern the role of religion in peace-building. Yet, considering that unpeace is brought about by many factors, including the onslaught of neoliberal economic globalization, more people experience poverty, internally displaced people are increasing as communities are destroyed, native wisdom and values are overrun by Western and consumerist outlooks, patriarchy and racism persists; and climate change is now felt as the destruction of the Planet Earth seems unabated.

Peace is celebrated as a gift from the Divine, yet, we, the earthlings have the responsibility to make peace a reality. Although its contribution may just be like a drop of water into the lake, ICF seeks to equip young people of different religious traditions, especially from the marginalized communities of Asia and Pacific, to make waves of peacebuilding actions.

## **Korea National Council of YMCAs hosts World Peace Convention 2018**

The National Council of YMCAs of Korea hosted the 2018 World Peace Convention from October 30 to November 1 in Incheon, Korea on the theme "People Building Peace: Restoration of Just Relations, Historical Reconciliation and Nurturing a Culture of Peace, for Sang Saeng (Life Together) in Korean Peninsula". 250 participants from 17 countries attended the Convention that had 3 parts, namely: the International Symposium and Workshop in Incheon, the Peace Pilgrimage at Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and the Peace Cultural Festival in Seoul, that ended with a peace march and adoption of the Seoul Declaration.

### **A Rare, Historic Moment**

On April 27, 2018, the Two-Korea Summit Meeting of President Moon Jae In and Chairman Kim Jong Un created a decisive, historical moment by initiating the "Panmunjom" process of peacemaking on the Korean peninsula. This Summit followed the Singapore summit of the USA and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) leaders on June 12,

2018. The spark for these summits came from the positive relationships formed around the Pyongchang Winter Olympics in February 2018. These developments have provided a historic opening for the Korean people to build permanent peace in their land and in East Asia.

### **The People Are the Main Subjects of Peace Building**

Based on the firm conviction that "the people are the subjects in peace-building," and on the two Korean leaders' Summits, Korea YMCA committed to work for people-initiated socio-cultural exchanges and cooperation in the international dimension, beyond geopolitical concerns or government-level diplomacy. The ongoing post-Olympics process of peace-building in the Korean peninsula and East Asia points to the significance of people's initiatives in building awareness about the history of conflicts, and collective efforts towards healing, reconciliation and common *Sang Saeng* (Life Together) among peoples and nations. Lessons from history shows

that nation states' governments have limited roles in overcoming political disputes and historical conflicts. People's role and initiatives must be emphasized to achieve true and permanent peace in the nation and around the world. Thus, there is the urgent need to create a people-initiated, independent peace process aimed at complementing governmental efforts towards historical reconciliation, healing and building of a community of life together—a process that will lead to fostering a culture of peace among the peoples.

### **Peace convention Part I. International Symposium and Workshop**

The symposium and workshop aimed to find creative convergence and sharing of wisdom among peoples who have suffered deep wounds and injustices due to wars and violent conflicts in various regions of the world. Two keynote addresses and four case studies were presented by resource persons from the USA, Germany, South Africa, and Ireland. They shared their thoughts on conflict and reconciliation. Touching to the participants were the experience-based

- continue to p. 5