



## International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013

Makassar, Indonesia  
25-28 September 2013



**iugen**

# Opening Ceremony

## International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013

Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation (GPFIF) organized International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013 in Makassar, 25-28 September 2013. Taking place at Colonial Hotel, Makassar, IMYA gathered 100 youths from various countries to discuss about interfaith pluralism with the new interfaith paradigm of One Family under God. With the theme of "Spreading seeds of Peace and Love through New Interfaith Paradigm for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", IMYA aimed to spread the interfaith tolerance spirit toward the Indonesian and other countries' youths.



The Chairman of Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation, Dr. Drs. Chandra Setiawan MM., PhD welcomed all participants, guests and speakers to International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013, in his speech he said that this is a second international youth interfaith program organized by Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation. It was happened in Bali in 2012 called Interfaith Summit 2012. He wishes through IMYA 2013 all youth can have good interfaith cooperation regardless their backgrounds, races, languages and etc.

IMYA 2013 was opened by the Vice Minister of Religious Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Prof. Dr. H. Nasaruddin Umar, M.A., he asserted that interfaith issues was important for youths to know. He said that pluralism is part of Indonesian society and the youths should have proper and better perspective regarding that issue. "I am very happy to meet a lot of youths discussing interfaith issues and I think this assembly is fundamental for Makassar youths. I have just been to Jordan. There, I found that we must conduct many positive activities for the under 40 generation so that we can easily instill

good values and change their mindset toward the interfaith issues. We know a figure from South Sulawesi, Karaeng Pattingalloang as the one who initiated the interfaith dialog in the past. Therefore, I believe that South Sulawesi is probably going to be the centre for learning interfaith tolerance".



"Interfaith is not only about religion but also many aspects such as economy, education, etc. I do not think we should question the interfaith issues instead we have to celebrate the difference. A painting will not be beautiful



when it is only white-colored but it is, when it is colorful. I think it is better if we do not commit violence in the name of religion or provoke rampage to separate us from our brothers". Prof. Nasaruddin Umar conveyed.



The organizing chairperson of IMYA 2013, Naskar Furiosan Hansam, separately stated that he expected IMYA 2013 could eradicate various problems with respect to racism and discrimination which still often happen in the society. "As the local youth of Makassar, I am very proud of to be the part of this event. IMYA 2013 is one of the annual programs organized by Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation aiming to inspire youths about how important the pluralism is. I hope that there will no racism and discrimination anymore because we conduct this event to break the wall that has been confining us. Through IMYA 2013, we hail you all to not only discuss but also undertake real actions and contributions to spread the message of peace through interfaith understanding".

The participants of IMYA from national and international engaged in various programs for four days. The programs were more interestingly packaged than last year's such as seminar, visit to worship places, flashmob campaigning anti interfaith violence, peace declaration and service project. The international participants came from Malaysia, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Indonesia and etc. The opening ceremony of IMYA 2013 celebrated by the GPF' theme song "Where Peace Begin" and Toraya Mala'bi' dance which shows multi ethnic dance to welcome all participants of IMYA 2013.



## Seminar Day of International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013



Twelve speakers shared their knowledge and experiences to participants about interfaith tolerance in International Multifaith Youth Assembly on 26 September 2013. First seminar session talked about **New Paradigm of Interfaith “One Family under God”** by Mr James Poon (Global Peace Festival Malaysia),

Mohammed Imran Mohammed Taib (Majelis Ugama Islam Singapore), Mahendran Arumugam (Deputy President of Sathya Sai Baba Central Council of Malaysia) and Prof. Dr. A. Husni Tantra, SpAn KIC, PhD (Association of Medical Doctors of Asia). The first speaker, **Mr. James Poon (Global Peace Festival Malaysia)** opened the morning session with his style which made participants become excited. Mr. James said that the new paradigm of interfaith is one particular thing that he wants to highlight. That is why GPF is a movement of that we believe that we are one family. We have to have imaginary. We talk about loving each other.

The second speaker is **Mohammad Imran Mohammad Taib (Majelis Ugama Islam Singapore)** he talked about there are many things have to change in this world. But we have to know what the issues. What are the issues? He gave participants example about stratification. He said when he says “One God” it means that we are equal because it describes the social status.

The third speaker is **Mahendran Arumugam (Deputy President of Santhya Sai Baba Central Council of Malaysia)**. He shared about his organization activities. The goal of the organization is to promote harmony; he said that he did not talk about religion but about service. Serving all regardless of race, tribe and others.





The forth speaker was **Prof. Dr. A. Husni Tantra, SpAn KIC, PhD (Association of Medical Doctors of Asia)**. He talked about his organization as medical doctor and he encouraged participants to be active youth and as a leader young people cannot wait, just do it start from yourself, right now and small things.

The second seminar session talked about "***Unity in Diversity; Universal Principle as the Basis of National Cohesion***", the first speaker for this session was **Dr. Drs. Chandra Setiawan MM., Ph.D as Chairman of GPFIF**. He mentioned about vision and 3 pillars of GPF Indonesia. Dr. Chandra explained about youth power as the population of Indonesia consists of 50% youth (based on data year 2011). It shows how big population of youth, and if the youth can be united, they will have big power and can give big impact to create peace. That is why Indonesia becomes an important country.



**Dwi Ruby Kholifah (Asian Moslem Action Network-AMAN Indonesia)** as the second speaker for this session mentioned about youth crisis, she said that youths are big number, but we are in big crisis. 197 million people are unemployment. Whereas Youth have power, but how we can use it. Youths need to have collective leadership, synergy and do not work alone because we need a teamwork in realizing integration peace and development.



**Johannes Subagia Made (Ministry Foreign Affairs Republic of Indonesia)** shared about Ministry Foreign Affairs Republic of Indonesia youth program to promote peace. He said that



we are living in so different ethnic. Every island has their own characteristics. That is why we are “**Unity in Diversity**”.

The fourth speaker was **Constantin Nicolsen Karamé (Norwegian Embassy)**. In his session, he said that we should accept that no one knows about truth, even though some implies can judge other for their beliefs. For plural society, how ever we are different people. Some rules for inter-religious tolerance are exclusive, inclusive and capable. The religion is not social conflict, but social peace.



The third session talked about “**Young Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy**”. **Irfan Amalee (Peace Generation)** shared about how to combine entrepreneur and social working. As social entrepreneur, he came up with some strategic planning that youth can apply with their communities.

In order to be social entrepreneur: (1) we have to be clear to our problem, (2) our product should be simple, (3) how we address the problem.

The second speaker, **Jinsoo Kim (Global Peace Foundation Asia Pacific Regional President)** shared about GPF activities and he also mentioned that young people has dream and passion. He has great aspiration from what his belief. He wanted the youth to recognize each other as the youth is a future of a country. He said “We need to develop as social or philanthropy as supporting point to realize global peace. If you recognize other person as brother. So, we can avoid conflict.”



The third speaker is **Muhammad Yusuf from Kapuntren Daar Salam (KPDS), Pasuruan, East Java** shared about his activities and what he has done with his community to share best



practices. He said that the social is just about the philanthropy. We are as young people need to have education. Eventhough it is long process. But you must be able to do it, and give the benefit to the people.

The fourth speaker is **Prof. Yudian Wahyudi, PhD, Deputy of Education and Interfaith Section of Ministry of People Welfare of Republic of Indonesia**. He talked about Pesantren “santri” (disciple) who has been known as terrorist, it is not true because it is original education institution. So that he invite to all young leaders to reduce our prejudices and start to love each other as family.

After seminar session, all participants joined focus group discussion in a world café method and interfaith dialogue conducted by Dewirini Anggraeni and I Gede Pandu Wirawan. The participants enjoyed the seminar sessions of International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013. It shows from many participants who asked some questions in every session. During IMYA 2013 participants can learn and practicing living for the greater good.



## Worship Places Visit Tour

**Day Three, 27 September 2013.** 100 participants coming from some provinces in Indonesia and overseas were visiting 6 worship places which belong to six different religions in Makassar. Participants visited Pura Giri Natha for Hinduism, Church Hati Kudus Jesus for Catholic, Mosque Al-Markaz Al-Islami for Islam, Temple Ibu Agung Bahari for Confucius, Church Immanuel for Protestant and Monastery for Buddhism. This visit aimed to have more understanding about the six religions and intensify the interfaith tolerance.

The first place was Hinduism worship place, Pura Giri Natha. Mr. Made Sumadi, as the Pura caretaker, warmly welcomed the IMYA 2013 participants. Mr. Made introduced and explained the Hinduism and its interfaith tolerance. He said that Pura Giri Natha consists of three parts, Nitia Mandala in which people conduct meeting, Madya Mandala in which worshippers prepare for praying and taking Tirta Water, the water for sanctifying the worshippers, given before and after the prayer, and Utama Mandala for praying.

The second place was Church Parokhi Hati Kudus Jesus. This church has been used for 100 years and is the oldest church in Makassar. It is also registered as one of the preserved cultural heritage. Here, the participants were introduced the interfaith tolerance which Catholic does. Due to the Friday prayer for Moslem, the discussion in this church was postponed for awhile. This showed how the IMYA 2013 participants applied the interfaith in daily life.

After visiting Catholic Church, the participants then continued to the next place Mosque Al-Markaz Al-Islami at which a tower whose height is one meter less than what's in Mosque Madina is being constructed. The visit was carried on to Temple Ibu Agung Bahari, Church Immanuel and ended at Arama Buddha Monastery.

The participants, from this visit, are expected to have more and better understanding about interfaith tolerance implemented by each religion. Basically, regardless the diversity, every religion wishes peace. The most important thing is how to accept the difference for a harmony life.



## Flash mob, Peace Declaration, Interfaith Prayers and Service Project

The most awaited program during IMYA 2013 was on the last day, 28 September 2013. It was the flash mob against interfaith violence that boosted the day. The activity was started with some speeches from Mr. Jinsoo Kim, GPF Asia Pacific Regional President and Pak Ari, the representative from provincial government. Mr. Jinsoo Kim motivated the participants of flash mob. He encouraged them to be passionately doing the flash mob as their video's going to be globally shared.

Similarly, Pak Ari, the representative from governor of South Sulawesi, said that it is the time and opportunity for Makassar youth to positively expose themselves. After the speeches, the most sacred moment of IMYA was next, the peace declaration. Khavitha, selected participant from Malaysia to read the peace declaration, came to be between the participants and the VIP guests. There, she firmly declared what was written on the declaration. Basically, there are 5 points that become concern of the participants of IMYA, declared during the declaration. Following are the 5 points that become the objectives to be realized after IMYA.



### PEACE DECLARATION

We, the active youth participants of International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013, Makassar, Indonesia, firmly stand with our commitment to strengthen respect, trust, tolerance and cooperation among the people of Asia Pacific and other countries with the diverse culture and religions, strongly recommend to:

1. Foster humanity in shared values and common vision of "One Family Under God"
2. Construct perpetual peace based on multi-faith understanding
3. Promote the idea of social entrepreneurship to the youth through social activities
4. Embrace the diversity by respecting each other
5. Fight against racism & discrimination begin with ourselves

By promoting peace building through education and technology, accelerating the value of religion and cross cultural understanding toward achieving global peace and human development. May God bless us and guide us to make a better world for the entire people.

Makassar, Indonesia, 28 September 2013

Immediately after Khavitha finished reading the declaration, siren was sounded to confirm that the peace declaration had just ended.

As if the committee did not want to make the participants relax, a group of youths suddenly jumped into the empty field and started doing some youthful moves. It was obviously the sign of the flash mob beginning. The other participants orderly joined the mobbers and at the end, everyone was there.

Seeing around 400 youths campaign about anti interfaith violence in the name of religion was a proof that we could actually break the border of difference among us. Closing this activity, five religious leaders, from Hinduism, Confucius, Buddha, Christian and Islam respectively, came forward to recite the interfaith pray and service project to a slum area named Mariso.



## Closing Ceremony of International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2013, IMYA 2013 was officially closed. The ceremony started at 1 pm at Batavia Ballroom, Colonial Hotel. It was preceded by the Asia Pacific Regional President of Global Peace Foundation, Mr. Jinsoo Kim. He said that IMYA 2013 was only a beginning. "Let's take all the lessons learned during the IMYA and bring and implement them to our community. This is just a beginning. Next time we meet, let's share what you have done to the society".



The ceremony was carried on with remarks from Ms. Yor Ching, the International Country Head of GPF Indonesia. "This event is very successful. I hope you guys can bring what you have gained here to your community. Spread the message you have got, generate a new leader and make a change to your community" She said.

The last remarks came from Mr. James Poon, from Global Peace Festival Malaysia. He said that If we really ate the "seed" and grew it then we would have a really big result of love and peace from this event. "We can get many friends here so that when we come to their countries, we can already have a friend there. Together, we can make a change to the region"

Khavitha, a participant from Malaysia, said "It is a great event, and I am really impressed. Not just from Makassar but all over Indonesia. You have initiative and you are really enthusiastic, for making this event. After this event I would like to start everything like this, maybe in my hometown and make it bigger".

Mr. Mahendran Arumugam, the representative from Sathya Sai Baba Council Malaysia also gave some remarks. "When the second move one circle, then the minutes will move and when minutes moves the hour will be move. You are the second, so when you move, even a small movement the other will move too, the minutes will move, and the hour will move". He uttered.



At the very end, Dewirini Anggraeni, the Interfaith Program Director of GPFIF, led the session. She showed some videos describing about the IMYA preparation. Everyone was so moved.

To acknowledge the committee hard and heart work, Dewirini called the committee on by one to the stage. She described everyone's role in IMYA and disclosed what they are to her. The closing was ended by singing GPF theme song together, solemnly.

## Participants Testimony International Multifaith Youth Assembly 2013

### **Mohammad Zarif from Afghanistan**

International Multifaith Youth Assembly is the unique social activist foundation for creating peace and love. The best session for me when I visited different worship places and show the people practically what to do and how to be. My suggestion for IMYA is try to extend and spread it to other countries, especially for Afghanistan. If the program is for three days and every day, only ten to twelve hours, that is the best. Try to remove useless programs.



### **Vichka from Cambodia**



IMYA such a special chance or event that I never meet before. Under the topic "Spreading Seed and Love through New Interfaith Paradigm for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We can make a small understanding is where peace begin because we are one family under God. The best session for me is last day morning session "community service", it is so grateful that we can contribute to our social, I really appreciate with ideal of it. We not forcing them to do but we show them. I love all of you.

### **Ilham Firman Syah from President University Jakarta**

IMYA is the right program to get the insight about new paradigm. The program to capture the right picture of what interfaith dialogue is. Moreover, we can widen our mind and guide our perspective to response diversity. The best session for me is interfaith dialogue session. Directly show me how to make a



dialogue properly. My only one suggestion, make it longer for discussion. Be frankly, I need more time to interact with speakers. Thanks for all.



### Ruzylawati Mustapha Kamar from Malaysia

IMYA is platform for young generation leaders to gain knowledge and experience in managing world in better way, to practice equality to everyone and say no to discrimination. The best session is visiting to house of worship. I can learn and understand the actual principle of each religion and release that we all are "One Family under God". IMYA 2014 should encourage participants from other countries especially countries that having conflict or war. Anyway, congratulation to all committee of IMYA 2013.

### Ahmad Ardillah Rahman from Universitas Negeri Makassar

To me, IMYA is a great event. I am lucky for being one who is involved in this event. IMYA opens my eyes about the important of the peace. Even we are coming from various backgrounds of ethnic and religions; it is not the reason to blame each other and to start the conflict. The best session for me is service project; from this event, I just realize one big thing, namely the importance of keeping our environment. IMYA is nice event ever.



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## News Monitoring Report GPF Indonesia

### ***International Multifaith Youth Assembly*** ***September 2013***

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Beda Background Bukan Berarti Tak Bisa Kompak

<http://kampus.okezone.com/read/2013/09/27/373/872693/beda-background-bukan-berarti-tak-bisa-kompak>



JAKARTA - Seratus pemuda dari berbagai negara ini berkumpul dalam satu forum. Keberagaman keyakinan yang mereka sandang tidak menghalangi calon pemimpin dunia ini untuk berdiskusi secara intelek dan menyelenggarakan kegiatan sosial kemasyarakatan.

Itulah gambaran kegiatan International Multifaith Youth Assembly (IMYA) 2013. Hajatan Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation (GPFIF) ini memang ditujukan untuk menjadi wadah pemuda dari berbagai negara untuk berdialog tentang keberagaman keyakinan.

Tidak main-main, forum *interfaith dialogue* ini bahkan didukung oleh pemerintah Indonesia. Pada upacara pembukaan IMYA 2013, Wakil Menteri Agama Prof. Dr. H. Nasaruddin Umar menekankan pentingnya anak muda mengetahui dan memahami isu *interfaith*. Terlebih lagi, anak muda Indonesia hidup di tengah keberagaman sehingga diperlukan persepektif yang baik dalam memandang isu tersebut.

Menurut Nasaruddin, *interfaith* bukan hanya soal agama, tapi berbagai aspek kehidupan seperti ekonomi dan pendidikan. Dia menilai, isu *interfaith* tidak perlu dipersoalkan, sebaliknya, kita justru harusnya merayakan keberagaman ini.

"Lukisan tidak akan indah ketika monoton warna putih, tapi akan indah k etika berwarna-warni. Saya rasa akan lebih baik bila kita tidak mengatasnamakan agama untuk melakukan kekerasan atau untuk memisahkan diri dengan saudara-saudara kita. Mari kita memberi semangat untuk berdamai, membangun, dan kemanusiaan," ucap Nasaruddin, seperti dinukil dari siaran pers IMYA 2013 kepada **Okezone**, Jumat (27/9/2013).

Kegiatan IMYA 2013 dipusatkan di Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan pada 25 hingga 28 September 2013. Nasarudin mengaku senang bertemu dengan banyak pemuda yang mendiskusikan isu *interfaith*. Selain itu, menurutnya, pertemuan tersebut juga penting bagi para pemuda Makassar. Sebab, salah satu pahlawan dari Sulawesi, Karaen Pattingalloang, merupakan penggagas *interfaith dialogue* di masa lampau.

"Karena itu saya rasa bukan tidak mungkin Sulawesi Selatan akan menjadi kiblat dalam mempelajari isu toleransi," imbuhnya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pelaksana IMYA 2013, Naskar F Hansam, berharap, pertemuan ini dapat menyebarkan semangat toleransi dan kerjasama antarumat beragama. Hal ini sesuai dengan tema "*Spreading Seeds of Peace and Love through New Interfaith Paradigm for the 21st Century*".

Naskar mengimbuhkan, IMYA 2013 juga bisa menjadi jalan untuk menghilangkan berbagai permasalahan terkait rasisme yang masih sering terjadi.

"Saya berharap tidak ada lagi rasisme, karena event ini kami selenggarakan untuk menghilangkan perbedaan di antara kita. Melalui IMYA 2013, kami mengundang Anda semua untuk tidak hanya berdiskusi namun melakukan aksi nyata untuk semakin menyebarkan pemahaman tentang *interfaith*," tutur Naskar.

Selain Indonesia, peserta IMYA 2013 berasal dari berbagai negara seperti Malaysia, Kamboja, Pakistan, Afganistan, dan beberapa negara Timur Tengah. Mereka akan mengikuti berbagai seminar, *flashmob* anti kekerasan, kunjungan ke tempat-tempat peribadatan, deklarasi perdamaian dan aktivitas melayani masyarakat. (**rfa**)

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Citizen journalism: Youthinterfaith program in Makassar

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/09/30/citizen-journalism-youth-interfaith-program-makassar.html>

The Global Peace Foundation (GPF) organized an event to encourage tolerance among young Indonesians in the South Sulawesi capital of Makassar.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Nasaruddin Umar opened the 2013 International Multifaith Youth Assembly (IMYA), held on Sept 25-28, with the theme: "Spreading seeds of peace and love through a new interfaith paradigm for the 21st Century".

The event aimed to promote diversity and religious understanding among its participants from Indonesia and other countries.

Apart from Indonesian university students, the event also welcomed participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Participants attended seminars and discussion forums on relevant issues. Event speakers included Mohammed Imran Mohammed Taib from the Singapore Islamic Council, James Poon from the Global Peace Foundation and Constantin Nicolaysen Karame from the Norwegian Embassy.

Apart from attending seminars and discussions, the participants also visited a number of places of worship such as Catholic Church Paroki Hati Yesus Yang Maha Kudus, Al-Markaz Mosque, Arama Budha Temple and Protestant Church of West Indonesia (GPIB) Immanuel of Makassar. Participants also watched performances from a Balinese dance ensemble, local music bands and members of the Blind People Association (Pertuni).

Muhammad Arham  
Citizen journalist/Hasanuddin University student  
Makassar

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Makassar dan Oleh-Oleh tentang Pluralitas

<http://kampus.okezone.com/read/2013/10/01/373/874585/makassar-dan-oleh-oleh-tentang-pluralitas>



**JAKARTA** - Belajar tentang keberagaman beragama memang paling pas di "pusatnya". Indonesia yang dihuni masyarakat dengan berbagai agama pun menjadi laboratorium yang tepat. Inilah yang dilakukan oleh seratus pemuda dari berbagai negara. Mereka mengunjungi dan tinggal di Indonesia untuk belajar tentang keberagaman, perdamaian, dan toleransi antaragama melalui **International Multifaith Youth Assembly (IMYA) 2013**.

Dipusatkan di Makassar, event yang dihelat oleh Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation pada 25-28 September lalu ini diisi dengan berbagai kegiatan. Peserta IMYA aktif mengikuti berbagai seminar dan diskusi, *flash mob* dan deklarasi perdamaian, aksi sosial kemasyarakatan hingga mengunjungi enam tempat peribadatan agama yang ada di Indonesia.

**Taris Hirzi, peserta dari President University, mengaku sudah sejak lama sangat ingin mengunjungi semua rumah ibadah yang diakui di Tanah Air.** Mimpi Taris pun terwujud melalui IMYA 2013.

"Terlepas dari segala perselisihan antaragama, sangat menarik bagi kita untuk mempelajari berbagai hal baru. Saya pernah belajar tentang konsep yang dianut oleh penganut Konghucu, namun saya tetap tertarik untuk mendengar konsep harmoni yang mereka miliki," kata Taris, seperti dikutip dari keterangan tertulis IMYA 2013 kepada **Okezone**, Selasa (1/10/2013).

President Global Peace Festival Asia Pasifik Jinsoo Kim berharap, sepulangnya dari Makassar, peserta IMYA 2013 akan melakukan aksi perubahan konkret di lingkungannya.

"IMYA hanyalah awalan dari sebuah upaya untuk menciptakan dunia yang lebih damai. Bagi saya potensi perdamaian harus dipelihara, agar tidak seperti tumbuhan yang bila tidak disiram kemudian menjadi kering," ujar Kim.

Sementara itu, bagi International Country Head Global Peace Festival Indonesia Foundation, Tokuda Yor Ching, visi perdamaian sangatlah penting untuk kehidupan di masa depan. Dia pun berharap semua pihak yang terlibat dalam penyelenggaraan IMYA 2013 bisa terus menyebarkan bibit perdamaian dan cinta kasih.

"Apabila ingin membuat perubahan, mereka haruslah menjadi pembuat perubahan dari apa yang ingin mereka dapatkan. Khususnya untuk panitia IMYA 2013, mari membuat perubahan untuk menciptakan sesuatu yang lebih baik bagi Makassar," tutur Ching.

Proses belajar tentang keberagaman ini tidak hanya dijalani para peserta, tetapi juga panitia IMYA 2013. Bagi salah satu panitia, Rita Fatimah, partisipasinya dalam IMYA 2013 memberinya kesempatan untuk berkunjung dan berinteraksi langsung dengan para pemuda lintas keyakinan.

"IMYA 2013 telah memberi saya kesempatan untuk bekerja dan berinteraksi langsung dengan pemuda dari latar belakang agama berbeda. Sebelumnya saya belum pernah mendapat kesempatan seperti ini," imbuhan Rita. (rfa)

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Belajar 6 Agama di Rumah Peribadatan

<http://kampus.okezone.com/read/2013/10/01/373/874577/belajar-6-agama-di-rumah-peribadatan>



**JAKARTA** - Pernahkah kamu mengunjungi rumah peribadatan agama lain? Jika ya, bagaimana perasaanmu? Jika tidak, apakah kamu ingin melakukannya?

Bagi peserta **International Multifaith Youth Assembly (IMYA) 2013**, mengunjungi rumah peribadatan agama lain mungkin menjadi pengalaman pertama mereka. Kegiatan ini dimaksudkan untuk memahami keberagaman dan toleransi di tengah masyarakat yang majemuk.

Keseriusan mereka mempelajari kemajemukan tidaklah main-main. Buktinya, seratus pemuda Indonesia dan berbagai negara ini mengunjungi enam rumah peribadatan di Makassar. Mereka mengunjungi Pura Giri Nata (Hindu), Gereja Katolik Hati Kudus Yesus (Kristen Katolik), Masjid Al-Markaz Al-Islami (Islam), Klenteng Ibu Agung Bahari (Konghucu), GPIB Immanuel (Kristen Protestan) dan Vihara Arama Budha (Budha).

Tidak sekadar berkunjung, mereka juga diperkenalkan tentang tata cara peribadatan suatu agama. Kemudian, para peserta IMYA 2013 ini aktif bertanya tentang berbagai hal yang ingin mereka ketahui dari suatu agama tertentu.

Menurut Pendeta Nitis dari GPIB Immanuel, Makassar, perdamaian dalam kehidupan sangatlah penting. Selain itu, manusia juga seharusnya bisa memberi makna bagi sesamanya.

"Tuhan Yesus tidak mengajarkan kita untuk menjadikan semua orang memeluk agama Kristen, tetapi Dia mengharapkan kita bisa memberikan bagi mereka yang tidak berpengharapan, memberikan makanan bagi mereka yang kelaparan, karena demikianlah seharusnya," kata Nitis, seperti dikutip dari keterangan tertulis IMYA 2013 kepada **Okezone**, Selasa (1/10/2013).

Isu kedamaian di tengah kemajemukan ini juga diamini Ketua Generasi Muda Konghucu Sulawesi Selatan Erfan Sutono. Dia menilai, penting sekali menjaga kepercayaan antarumat sehingga tercipta masyarakat yang penuh kedamaian.

"Pada empat penjuru lautan semua manusia adalah saudara, sehingga untuk mencapai kedamaian kita harus saling menjaga bersama dan harus setia kepada Tuhan dan dapat dipercaya pada sesama. Pluralisme itu ibarat sebuah tembok, kita perlu menyatukan pasir, air, semen, dan batu bata agar bisa saling merekatkan, kerukunan menjadi harga mati bagi kita semua," tutur Erfan.

Sementara itu, Deputy President Satya Sai Baba Malaysia, Mahendran Arumugam, memberi penghargaan atas tingginya toleransi masyarakat Indonesia terhadap warga yang memiliki keyakinan berbeda. Dia mengaku sangat tertarik dengan fakta bahwa perempuan muslim memiliki ketertarikan untuk berkunjung ke pura dan gereja.

"Melihat bagaimana para peserta bertanya ketika berada di gereja, menunjukkan kepada kita bahwa masyarakat Indonesia sangat menghargai keberagaman," ujarnya.

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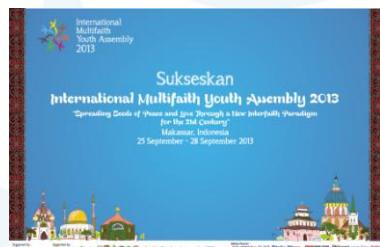
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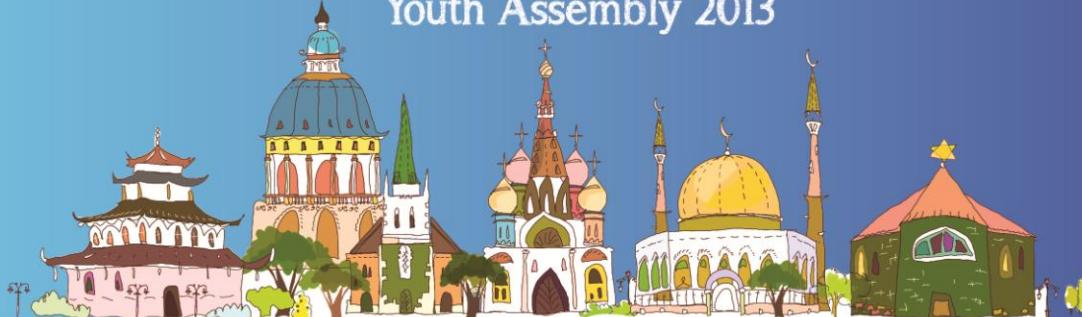
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