

UPF Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia launches the national chapter of IAPD

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Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia -- UPF-Malaysia celebrated UN World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) and the International Day of Human Fraternity as well as launched the national chapter of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) during its first "Peace Talks" webinar held on February 3, 2021. The virtual program was attended by 250 participants from 15 nations.

In the first session, leaders of UPF-Asia Pacific launched the IAPD-Malaysia. Mr. Stefan Priesner, UN resident coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, delivered a special message on WIHW.

This was followed by a Panel Sharing Session featuring distinguished speakers representing interfaith, women and youth perspectives who shared their views on and solutions for overcoming the COVID-19 crisis.

The participants consisted of religious leaders, women leaders, academicians and students, and 70 percent of them rated the webinar as "excellent."

Reflections:

"It is powerful that everyone considers cultural and religious diversity not as a destructive factor, but as a unifying one. I now realize that living in harmony with each other could be the most important goal to attain in order to achieve peace."

- Staff, United Nations Association of Singapore

"People should work together to change the community and inspire one another in order to create a loving and peaceful environment and help others in need to pass [through] this pandemic."

- University Student

"It was a really warming and helpful webinar; I found it especially useful for teenagers and adults who are going through [difficulties] during this pandemic. It would be nice if [the participants] could have [talked] with the speakers. Overall, the webinar was wonderful! I would recommend it to my family and friends to gain better knowledge."

- Member, Malaysia Peacelanders

"Well done. Keep going and keep improving, and understand other people's ideas and implement them if possible. The team has eloquently shown [this program is] for connecting the world for peace and prosperity and that is something which needs much appreciation."

- University Student