

3rd International Youth Assembly in the Philippines

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3rd International Youth Assembly in the Philippines: Multiplying Owners of True Parent's Vision for the Young People - Rizal Province, Philippines

FFWPU Philippines: The 3rd International Youth Assembly 2015 was held last November 27-29, 2015 in the province of Rizal in the Philippines, with the theme, "Principled Youth: Lead, Act and Multiply!". The 3-Day Assembly which was co-organized by the Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP) and World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (WCARP) together with the Universal Peace Federation has brought together international and local students and youth delegates representing 8 nations from Asia and including Korea, Japan, U.S.A. and the host nation, Philippines. This is the 3rd time that IYA was conducted in the Philippines which started in 2013 based on the guidance of Dr. Chung Sik Yong, Regional Chair of UPF Asia to focus on raising young leaders. A total of 520 delegates including youth volunteer staff, participated in the 3-day assembly and around 2,600 students and youth participants joined in the IYA Main Event on the 29th of November. International Peace Leadership College (IPLC) hosted the IYA this year. This was the first time since its inception in 2013 that IYA was conducted inside the campus. The plan to institutionalize IYA in universities and colleges will move towards the direction wherein Universities and Colleges will play host to this annual event. The 3rd IYA have various programs and activities that made the delegates upbeat and motivated. This included the International Youth Forum, Friendship Night, Drafting of IYA Resolutions, IYAlympics (sports competition), Induction and Awarding Ceremonies, Mountain Trekking, Tree Planting and the Main Assembly.

The Mayor of Tanay, Hon. Rafael Tanjuatco gave the welcome address during the Opening Program of the 3rd International Youth Assembly held at the gymnasium of IPLC. The government of Tanay is one of the major partners of the 3rd IYA including the provincial government of Rizal and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, 2nd Infantry Division. Then an Opening Message was delivered by Dr. Venus Agustin, president of IPLC. Dr. Julius Malicdem, Chairman of WCARP and YFWP Philippines and the National President of FFWPU delivered the Keynote Address. The student and youth leaders representing a total of 48 universities, colleges and youth organizations were filled with excitement as the various activities were unfolding.

During the first activity, the International Youth Forum, several topics were presented by resource speakers. A presentation on the Principles of Peace was given by Prof. Celestino Jose Navalta, Jr. of UPF, Mr. Kenny Chia from Singapore presented on "The Effects of 21st Century Technology to the Youth"; Mrs. Constance Gabb (IPLC) presented a lecture entitled "Straight Talk"; Ms. Baibon Sangid from the National Youth Commission gave an exciting presentation about the topic, "What Makes a Modern Hero?". A very young student leader from Mindanao, Mr. Datu Pax Ali Mangudadatu presented on "Leadership, Politics and Social Change: Youth and National Development" and Mr. Inhyuk Chang from

Korea, CIG Special Youth Envoy to the Philippines gave a presentation on “Global Network: Increasing Effectiveness through Exchange Programs”. During the Friendship Night, aside from the cultural performances and entertainment, the delegates also got a chance to present their talents by teams and to have bonds of friendship through a sisterhood ceremony.



On the 2nd day of IYA, November 28, another speaker from the Academe, Dr. Amado Magsino spoke on an interesting topic, “Academic Challenges of the Youth in the 21st Century”. Then a workshop to write resolution and proposals as output of the Assembly was conducted. Dr. Felicitas Sicam from IPLC and the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA) Philippines guided the process of the resolution making. The outcome was so encouraging as the students who were divided into 7 teams engaged in an exciting interaction and came out with 7-point resolution which is planned to be submitted to the Philippine Congress and the National Youth Commission. Also, the IYA Council was organized paving the way for the expansion of CARP Chapters all over the Philippines and the institutionalizing of IYA in all colleges and universities.

Day 2 of the IYA also gave opportunity for all the delegates to develop more friendship and camaraderie through several fun teambuilding games and sports activities dubbed as “IYAlympics”. The second day concluded with the Induction Ceremony for various CARP Chapters in the Philippines and the Awarding ceremonies for the IYAlympics. General Roberto Santiago, a retired army general and the President of the Asian Peace and Unity Corps (APUC) delivered the Congratulatory Message. Many of the delegates were in a very high spirit and many of them made determination to bring victory for CARP in their own universities and those who still don’t have to organize their own.



The 3rd and last day of IYA was a very busy day. From early morning of November 29, all the delegates plus hundreds of more volunteers from universities and colleges participated in the International Tree Planting activity. In spite of the showers in the early morning, the delegates gathered in one community school in the mountains of Tanay, Rizal province. Vice Governor of Rizal, Hon. Frisco San Juan, Jr. delivered the inspirational message for all the volunteers. Also present in the tree planting program were, Hon. Armando Villamayor, Provincial Board member and Engr. Carlos Onofre, in-charge of the Tanay Environmental Protection team. Around 1,500 variety of tree seedling were planted that day. Even though the participants have to travel in slippery and muddy mountain paths for about 30 minutes to and another 30 minutes back, they were all contented and happy to contribute for the preservation of mother earth and help mitigate the ill effects of climate change and global warming.

In the concluding event of the 3rd International Youth Assembly, the venue IPLC Gymnasium, was full packed with around 2,300 students and youth coming from more than 30 universities and colleges and youth organizations all over the Philippines, including several youth participants. The dynamic spirit of the young people was so evident as they continued to cheer enthusiastically as the program was unfolding.



The celebration started with entertainment and performances from a hip-hop dance group, Tanay Hyperbeat, followed by an action-packed martial arts performance from the students of International Peace Leadership College. Then a cultural dance performance was presented by selected students from Sun Hwa International Academy. Mr. Richell Jalipa then gave a lecture on Pure Love which really engaged the assembly participants. This was followed by the recitation of the Pure Love Pledge by all the participants and guests of the IYA. Then the Main event started with a doxology and the singing of the Philippine National Anthem led by the choir of University of Rizal System.



Welcome Remarks was given by Rizal Board Member, Hon. Armando Villamayor. The Opening Message of Regional Chair of UPF Asia, Dr. Chung Sik Yong was read by Dr. Julius Malicdem, Chairman of YFWP and CARP in the Philippines. In the message the call for the youth to become owners in solving the problems of the modern society, to take positive action and become part of the solution instead of becoming the problem, was emphasized. A multi-awarded TV host and youth leader from the government TV channel, PTV 4, Mr. Jules Guiang delivered a Special Message. Major General Romeo

Gan, Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division of the Armed Forces of the Philippines also gave a Special Message. Before the Keynote Address of Rizal Governor, Hon. Rebecca Ynares, an intermission number, Korean fan dance was presented by the lovely pupils of Sun Hwa International Academy. Hon. Reynaldo San Juan, Jr., Board member of Rizal then delivered the Governor's message to the participants of IYA.

One of the highlights of the main assembly was the awarding of Youth Ambassadors for Peace (YAP) and Collegiate Ambassadors for Peace (CAP) to some exemplary student and youth leaders.

Before the end of the main assembly, a moment of remembrance and prayer for peace and humanity was conducted wherein the singing group Koro Choreo rendered a very moving musical number.

The 3rd International Youth Assembly concluded with 3 loud cheers of eog mansei (mabuhay) led by the President of WCARP Philippines, Mr. Rene Lansangan. The cheers reverberated in the entire gymnasium showing the unified voice of the youth to take responsibility in building a better future.

Later that day, all the organizers, staff and members gathered in the same venue of the assembly for the Victory Celebration in order to offer the victorious conclusion of the 3rd IYA to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Everyone is excited for the next staging of the IYA in 2016.

