

UPF Promotes Interfaith Cooperation for Peace in Jakarta, Indonesia

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Jakarta, Indonesia recently hosted an illuminating conference on the power of interfaith cooperation to build peace. On October 16, 2023, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), in partnership with The Voice of Istiqlal, convened the "Interfaith Dialogue: IAPD-IAPP Joint Assembly" at the historic Istiqlal Mosque.



The theme of the gathering was "The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Interfaith Cooperation in

Nation Building." Over 90 religious and civic leaders attended the thought-provoking program.

The Opening Session featured a water ceremony with representatives of different faiths symbolizing unity. Keynote speaker Prof. Dr. K. H. Nasaruddin Umar, Grand Imam of Istiqlal Mosque, stressed using spiritual rather than political language to solve problems. He highlighted the mosque's commitment to interfaith work, including a new tunnel connecting it to Jakarta's oldest cathedral.



Other speakers emphasized shared values across faiths and cultures. The need for emergency assistance amid conflicts like Israel-Palestine was noted. Afternoon sessions focused on cultivating "common ground" between religions and empowering youth.

The Universal Peace Federation events like this showcase the power of inclusive dialogue in healing divides. As UPF Asia Pacific Chair, Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal said, "The global community should come together...while condemning all forms of terrorism through unified efforts."

By bringing together Indonesia's diverse religious landscape, the IAPD-IAPP Joint Assembly set an example of building national unity through interfaith cooperation.