THE 22nd ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CONFERENCE 2016

“Youth for Change: Ethical Leadership and Trust Building towards an Inclusive Global Society”

6th - 13th August 2016
Bandung, West Java, Indonesia
The 22nd Asia Pacific Youth Conference 2016

“Youth for Change; Ethical Leadership and Trust Building towards an Inclusive Global Society”

Special Thanks To:

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**22nd ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (APYC)**

6th – 13th AUGUST 2016
Bandung, West Java – Indonesia

“Youth for Change: Ethical Leadership and Trust Building towards an Inclusive Global Society”

**Day 1: Saturday, 6 August, 2016**

The 22nd Asia Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) was held in Bandung, West Java Province, conducted by Initiatives of Change (IofC) Indonesia. Initiatives of Change (IofC) is an international network, a movement for change in society. This conference was attended by 90 young people from different countries and backgrounds. The theme of this year’s conference is Youth for Change; Ethical Leadership and Trust Building towards an Inclusive Global Society. APYC aims to provide a space for concerned youth from Asia Pacific region and beyond to have honest and sincere conversations one to another, to take personal responsibility for major issues around the world, and to discover their roles in making a better world, starting through personal change. This conference was facilitated by experienced members of IofC family, change makers from different walk of life from Asia Pacific and a number of daily visitors from Indonesia.

APYCs started to be held in 1990, to bring together youth from around the region to learn from the experiences of those who had successfully taken action in order to overcome challenges in their societies. APYC offers practical ideas and encouragement to those who want to get involved as change makers, addressing social issues in each country and region. This is the opportunity to have dialogues with those who come from neighboring countries, to build friendship, and to create networks for peace in the future.

| Important Dates |  
|-----------------|---|
| **08/06**       | Day 1: Opening Ceremony APYC 2016 |
| **08/07**       | Day 2: My Life My Message |
| **08/08**       | Day 3: Personal Responsibilities |
| **08/09**       | Day 4: My Calling My Commitment |
| **08/10**       | Day 5: Outing & Cultural Night |
| **08/11**       | Day 6: The Youth’s Role |
| **08/12**       | Day 7: My Action |
| **08/13**       | Day 8: Commitment, Appreciation, and Closing |
Yudi Septiawan, the chairperson of APYC welcomed all participants and thanked all faculty members for their hard work and contributions to make this prestigious conference happen. He also expressed his gratitude to IofC in the Asia Pacific Region, all donors, Asia Pacific Regional Group (APRG), Peace Generation, and all individuals who are committed to support this conference. During the conference each of the participants experienced diversity, took the opportunity to understand and cherish differences among them. To welcome the participants, the singing team sang It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness: for its glow will melt the dark night like the coming of a new dawn and hope will be born from that small flame in your hand. The message shows how each human being can take part in bringing changes and the world will be more peaceful when each of us plays our roles in various fields such as education, environment, sustainable living program, and many other fields.

In giving the key note speech, Irakli Khodeili, the head of the Social Human Science Unit at UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) stated that the APYC is a space for youth to build networking, share with incredible diversity and take real actions as the young generation. He said youth have big roles in creating peace because they are critical thinkers, change makers, innovators, communicators, and leaders. He concluded by encouraging young people to continue to create peace and change. The singing team sang a song, Friends we haven’t met: ‘There are no strangers in the world, only friends we haven’t met.’ These words were meaningful for all participants telling them to make friends with people whom they meet for the first time, also building friendship and networking amongst the participants.

After the opening ceremony, the participants were divided into family groups so that everyone had a chance to get to know people from different backgrounds, shared their life stories, and listened to each other. Each family group was led by a main facilitator who enabled each member to listen and share their thoughts and take care of each member as well.
Day 2: Sunday, 7 August, 2016

On the second day, the participants followed a plenary session with the theme, ‘Living Consciously’ in which they had space to have reflection about honesty values led by Hsiao Yun, Taiwanese social activist and Miftahul Huda, a member of the Asia Pacific Coordination Group (APCG). Hsiao Yun said that this is her 6th APYC and it is a place to make friends and to get to know new people. Huda said that Initiatives of Change (IofC) is a global family from different backgrounds who come together as family. If we want to see global change, we need to start with ourselves. During the plenary session, four faculty members played a skit with the message of change starting with ourselves. Change needs courage to take an action and you will not know what will happen until you try.

Afterward, Agus Mulyana presented about Youth for Change: Ethics, Integrity, and You. He said that we can take action through taking initiatives to change within each individual. We need to take part in creating peace through the values of religion. The diversity of religion is expected to create peace among us as the motto of Indonesia, unity in diversity. In the end of his speech, Agus stated that the difference among us is just nothing; we are all human beings who live in diversity. After the session, Leslie, Indian volunteer, sang a song entitled Borrowed Time: we are living in on a borrowed time, it does not matter who we are.

The second speaker of the plenary session was Inayah Wahid, the founder of Positive Movement Indonesia. Inayah delivered a presentation about Pursuit of Happiness to Create Change. As the youngest child of the former President of Indonesia, Abdurrahman Wahid, she realized that she could take responsibility in creating change for Indonesia. She and her friends took an initiative to create the Positive Movement where young people share about gratitude, spirituality, learning, and resilience. She felt called together with her friends to make change by creating the concept of the Positive Movement such as having dialogues about personal changes, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue.

The participants learnt about Quiet Times: a time to grow still, examine life choices and do self-discovery. Through the Quiet Time, we listen to our inner voice and thoughts. The inputs for Quiet Time were: Are you completely happy with who you are today?; When you are not present, what do your friends you know say about you? In the end of morning session, Leslie, one of singing team sang On The Other Side of Silence: ‘there is no place to hide, there is not much room for pride.’ Through this song, we are encouraged to listen to our inner voice.

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During the conference, each participant had the chance to join a workshop, held on three afternoons. The workshop consists of Leading Change for a Sustainable World, Women Creators of Peace (CoP), Conflict Resolution Global Citizenship, Creative Recycling, Sensitivity Training, and Music, Movement and Art Playshop.
Leading Change for a Sustainable World workshop is to bring together people dreaming to make the new green economy a reality and support them in becoming inspiring leaders for a self-sustaining global movement. The workshop approach is based on the IofC principles that global needs can be met through transformational change. This workshop was led by Rishab Khanna, a graduate of economic development, environmental legislation and management, international law and diplomacy.

Creators of Peace (CoP) workshop is an international program of IofC and aims to empower women to become peace creators at every level – in their homes, communities, and nations, led by Kirsty. Kirsty is currently working for IofC Australia assisting the Executive Officer and co-developing their volunteer management and engagement portfolio, people and pathways. Conflict Resolution Global Citizen is filled with courageous conversations, interactive presentations, provocations, and role plays. The participants engaged with conflict at home, in local community, globally and within. This workshop was led by Margareth, founder of The Gandhi Experiment, a social enterprise, whose vision is world peace through education.

Creative recycling workshop is about how to change garbage into useful things in life and have the value of art. Khilda, founder of Sampahkoe (My Garbage), facilitated the workshop and shared how she makes change in her community through environmental issue.

Sensitivity workshop consists of two parts namely sensitivity to life training and healing the inner self, led by Hsiao Yun. Hsiao Yun was born in an IofC family, and work as a full-timer in Tainan Family EQ Development Association.

Music, movement, and art playshop is a workshop where participants had a space to reflect, heal, and build relationships using story-telling, music, movement, and art. This workshop was led by Leslie and Mayuree, Indian volunteer couple, who contribute with community development using a variety of participatory mediums such as music, integrated arts, games, craft and manual labor.
Day 3: Monday, 8 August, 2016

On the third day the Quiet Time session included a song, Listen, was sung while the participants did some reflection on the lyrics: ‘A voice will surely say the things you do; listen to the still small voice that’s telling you.’ We learn how we listen to our inner voice and have faith in ourselves.

Before the plenary session, a skit was played whose message was when you believe in yourself, you can do anything.

Rama, one of the participants said that what he learnt from the skit is that when we have plans and goals, we need to have reflection time to think of what steps we have to put into action. The plenary session with the theme Looking into the mirror was led by Leslie and Mayuree. Mayuree shared about how she did not get along with her brother. Once she reflected on how she felt bad with the situation and she had a thought to write a letter to ask for forgiveness. It was a challenge for her to control her emotions and she finally forgave her father before he passed away. After listening to Nenden’s story, singing team sang a song Images: lots of friends think that there’s nothing wrong ‘cos when I am with them my mask is on. The message of the song tells us to have self-reflection and be confident with who we are.

During the plenary session, Yadi, IofC Indonesian volunteer shared about his family background in which his mother shared love to him and his 8 siblings. His parents were divorced when he was 12 years old. Yadi grew up in a family without affection from his father. He learnt to share his story after meeting IofC Indonesia when he listened to his inner voice and managed to forgive his father. Now, listening to his inner voice is a guide for him to take steps into action. He now expresses his love to his mother by regular and affectionate communication with her.

Another speaker, Kexin Lim, Singaporean activist shared about her life story. ‘Many of us look into the mirror but we do not see.’ We tend to excuse not doing certain activities instead of appreciating the times given to us. She said life is not only about choice but also how we have balance within our choices and to give our full hearts to the things we are doing.
Day 4: Tuesday, 9 August, 2016

We started today’s session by having quiet time in family groups. Every main facilitator gave input to group members. Regarding to the quiet time input, some questions for today’s quiet time were (1) What does quiet time mean to me? How does it help me?, (2) What is my purpose?, (3) What are my dreams/ my biggest goals?, (4) How can I bring unity in my family and community?, (4) Are there any blocks like jealousy, envy, dishonesty, hatred, and resentment?

Nandor Lim, CEO of Akasha Learning Companionship Association of Malaysia, led today’s plenary session. The theme of the fourth plenary session was Reaching Out. We are nowadays facing a lot of challenges in this world such as: refugee crisis, violence, civil war, and environmental protection, and many more things. Some people might think either we want to take actions toward the problems around world or take no notice of the problems since we live in a safe country. Nevertheless, we want to address the needs.

Nandor also shared about how his parents decided to divorce when he was 12 years old. He was too young to understand the reason. He finally ran away from Malaysia and continued his study in Taiwan. He continued to complain about his family and country for what had happened. He said it is easy to express what changes we want to see in the world, yet it is a big challenge how to take an action to change and improve the situation. Nandor said that he used to hate people who asked him about his family because it is not their concern. ‘I finally surrendered myself to forgive my parents for what happened in the past and I am ready to move forward to create change within myself, my family, and my country.’ I believe once we change, we can engage others. Before ending the sharing session, singing team sang Be The Change: When change starts within my heart then I can show the way the world to go. When we look past our needs and live beyond our wills, we will be the change; we want the world to be.

Budi Rahman Hakim, the owner of Jagat Arsy Boarding School presented about promoting the wonderful Islam Indonesia. He shared about his life journey and his thoughts related to what he can do for global change. He finally took an initiative to build a boarding school and the visions are religious, scientist love and care, entrepreneur, and global minded. As John F. Kennedy said, change is the law of life. He raised the idea that each human being has a role to create change in each field we are passionate about. In the end of the plenary session, the singing team sang Every man can be a new man: Every man can be a new man and every heart can sing a song. The message in the song is how everyone has space to repay mistakes they did in the past and become better people in the future.

“You can be anyone you want to be when you believe in your decision” - Kexin Lim
In the evening session, Rishab, Indian volunteer welcomed speakers who concern about peace issue. Francine and Barbara Lawler, Australian volunteers shared about the prejudices and stereotypes issue existed in Australia. They said how we could live without peace and we are all facing this issue. One of the issues is about the existence of indigenous people in Australia.

Irfan Amalee and Erick Lincoln, founders of Peace Generation, shared about how they created peace among different religions. Irfan, Moslem man and Erick, Christian man committed to create harmony between Moslem and Christian by having conversations, running some programs, and selling books related with peace. Irfan and Erick took an initiative to build Peace Generation in order to share about peace to people and run some programs to create peace. Erick raised a question to the participants: When we move, it creates comforts. How do you deal with this? If we manage conflict well, we can make our relationship better. This can happen when we listen and respect people. Erick said that people who get involved in IofC are great people who want to face the conflict.

In the talk about the Peace Session, Francine Berabose, Congolese-Australian and Barbara Lawler shared about the prejudices and stereotypes issue existing in Australia. In a dialogue about the challenges of cultural diversity in Australia, we learnt about the history of racism starting with indigenous Australia and the slow progress of reconciliation.

"Conflict can help us to grow and stay closer to God because when we get conflict, we try to find out the solutions and surrender to God" - Erick Lincoln

Day 5: Wednesday, 10 August, 2016

We started today’s session by having quiet time with the inputs were given by each main facilitator. Some input for today’s quiet time were: So far, has the APYC made any difference to your life and your decisions? and Is there a calling or direction emerging (coming up)? Annisa, Indonesian participant shared that she firstly did not have big expectations in this conference and learnt to make friendship with new people. Through family group, she feels like having new family and be grateful with her days during the conference.

Kirsty, IofC Australia volunteer, shared about how she connected her skills, interest, and needs of the world and figure out what steps she would take. Kirsty said, ‘I use my skills with my spiritual experience to encourage spiritual connection, peacebuilding and women’s right in Australia.’ ‘I use my cross cultural communication skills and my passion for travel and socializing to connect and build bridges between people different backgrounds in Australia.’ Before ending the session, we watched a video, called Let’s do it. Let’s do it was a real action held in Estonia, which paid their attention with the environmental issue. The idea is how to bring the problem to everyone’s awareness and believe that change is possible to happen.

Siddarth, Indian volunteer led today’s plenary session about finding my calling which inspired people. The participants were divided into group consisted on 6 people in a group. Watching a video about how family is one of the priorities in our life, we learnt to reflect on our each family and understanding difference in family condition. Each participant was asked to reflect, write down, and share their talents, gifts, and passions, and the world they need.
Inside Story Headline

We had a session, called *Talk to Neighbor* where we had a space to express problematic issues among countries, have honest conversations and listen to each other. This session focused on tension and conflicts among countries.

Discussion Between Indonesia and Malaysia

After having lunch, we had a session, called *Talk to Neighbor* where we had a space to express problematic issues among countries, have honest conversations and listen to each other. This session focused on tension and conflicts among countries. As a speaker, Margareth, Australian volunteer said that it was a golden opportunity for participants who come from various countries to talk with their neighborhood countries about violence, conflict, and war. How can we change the nature of the debate before we even begin? This question may come to our mind when we argue with people around. We have an intention to solve the problem but we are challenged by the way we communicate with. There are simple things to stay calm before we start conversation with someone such as drink water, take a deep breath, bring your heart, and put our feet in someone’s shoes, and not to be passive.

The participants were put into discussion groups namely: Vietnam and Cambodia, India and Afghanistan, Taiwan and The Philippines, Japan and Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia, Australia, East Timor and New Zealand. The questions to discuss were: What are my concerns to the country and What words am I going to use to express my thought to my neighbor country? As Rumi 13th century Sufi poet said, ‘Out beyond ideas of wrong doing and right doing, there is a field.’ ‘I’ll meet you there.’ These sayings were the thoughts of today’s group discussion.
Inside Story Headline

We had an outing to one of the tourism destinations in Bandung; Floating Market Lembang. We enjoyed seeing the view, canoeing, taking pictures, and buying some souvenirs.

Day 6: Thursday, 11 August 2016

In the morning, all participants had a quiet time in each family group, and the inputs were: What have I learnt about difficult relationships?, What would I like to see in different relationships?, Is there anything in my heart which blocks?, and What steps can I take?

After having quiet time, we had an outing to one of the tourism destinations in Bandung; Floating Market Lembang. We enjoyed seeing the view, canoeing, taking pictures, and buying some souvenirs. After coming to the venue of the conference, the participants prepared themselves for an evening cultural performance. We had good times and got ready for tomorrow’s sessions.
Day 7: Friday, 12 August 2016

Today’s session was started by having multifaith prayer. Participants gathered, prayed to God, thank Him for blessing and giving great days for everyone. We came from different faith and religion but we have same goals to create peace in the universe. After having quiet time, Leslie and Siddarth led a session which participants were divided into groups and shared their thoughts. The questions were: what are my personal learning insights or realizations that I need to carry forward in my journey?, what have I learnt about relationship and what gift can I take back to my relationship?, what is my role to the world and what environment do I want to create? Each participant shared their thoughts through pictures and words and shared in small groups and moved around the table to listen from other groups.

The participants presented the workshop which they had attended during the conference. They shared what they learnt during the workshop. Laura, Taiwanese participant, shared that she firstly thought that she could not be a change maker. Having conversation about peace and women’s right inspired her to be part of solutions instead of making conflicts. Siti Zaetun, Indonesian participants said that a woman has a big role to raise good children.

During the Sensitivity Training Workshop, each of the participants shared about their life stories, wrote down letters to parents, and listened to one another without judging people. Annisaul, Indonesian participant learnt to control her emotions and know more about her family. While Nana, Taiwanese participant said that it is quite challenging for her to share her life stories, yet she managed to honestly tell about her difficult relationship with her mother.

Joining leading change within sustainable life, Saleh, Nagaland participant said that he wants to create change by taking care of the environments. Tahmeed, Kashmir participant said, ‘it is difficult for him to control my anger especially coming from country which gets full of conflict.’ In the end of the presentation, the participants of the workshop sang Rise: ‘Gonna rise up. Find my direction magnetically.’
In the closing ceremony, Yudi Septiawan expressed his gratitude to all people who have contributed in this conference. We are finally ready to take action and create peace around the world.

In the evening, we had an appreciation session where we expressed our appreciation to others by writing positive words. We had bonfire in the evening, sang songs, and had a lot of fun.

Day 8: Saturday, 13 August 2016

On the last day, the participants had a space to express their thoughts and action plan after coming back to each homeland. The participants shared their action plans to create change and looked forward to building friendships and taking action in our commitments for our lives, family and surroundings to make a better world. Barbara Lawler, from IofC Australia, said that it was wonderful coming for the 13th time to Indonesia. She said, ‘I have been doing Quiet Time for 46 years and it guides me to listen to my inner voice.’ In the closing ceremony, Yudi Septiawan expressed his gratitude to all people who have contributed in this conference. We are finally ready to take action and create peace around the world.
Testimonial

**Michael, Indonesia**
I come here with small expectation but I go home picturing myself to be part of something’s big through small actions.

**JeonYeon Yuk, Korea**
Change can be created by recognizing each role; commit to do Quiet Time; and understanding how strong our commitment is.

**Barbara Lawler, Australia**
It was wonderful coming for the 13th time to Indonesia. I found out Indonesia team have passion, commitment, vision, and discipline to make APYC happen.

**Nana, Taiwan**
I found the unique of this conference where we had space not only to discuss current issues around the world but also listen to inspiring personal stories.

**Neas, Indonesia**
I will not forget my family group because they are part of my family now and forever.

**Salie, Nagaland**
APYC really inspired me. I learn to know more about myself and what steps I want to take in my life. I got to know people from various backgrounds and religions, also

**Khadar, New Zealand**
APYC opened up my mind about current issues around the world. It is hard for me to imagine the real situations. I enjoyed the conference but it is still hard to look into the mirror.

**You Kyoung Jung, South Korea**
APYC gave me a space to think of what the real meaning of peace is. I also thought of what discrimination is. Overall, I enjoyed the conference.

**Zarina, The Philippines**
APYC gave me the strength and humility to learn and change things about myself to become a better person. It also gave me a new family.
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Photo Collections

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