Building trust across the world’s divides
“When we learn how to work together versus against each other things might start getting better”
- Alexandra Elle
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Irna Yugaswatie
President, IofC Indonesia

Indonesia is challenged by the blessing for its preparation towards the demographic bonus. The condition when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older). The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) describes this condition as "a boost in economic productivity that occurs when there are growing numbers of people in the workforce relative to the number of dependents. It was calculated to reach the peak time in 2045, exactly 100 year after Independence.

It is a blessing, indeed a bonus for Indonesia. Many countries have a problem with a decreasing birth rate and the non-working age population. In this regard, Indonesia has nothing to worry about except to control overpopulation.

Now, the challenge is to find an answer to the question, “Are we ready?” Many more questions may follow this. One of them is to question the quality of the generation that will conquer this Golden Indonesia.

Doubts come from the current situation as many in the “older” generation have little trust that the “millennial generation” will be able to better lead Indonesia. The label of “instant generation” that is associated with “laziness”, their “global communication” that is said to be the reason for many cultural shifts in society. And the list goes on.

The Millennials on the other hand, have their own reasons to be confident. Learning agility is a trait that makes them believe that they can continue the civilization and even create a better one. Despite their confidence, the fourth industrial revolution has brought rapid changes that cause exhaustion and make this generation susceptible and vulnerable to stress, over anxiety, depression and so forth.

To find solutions to these challenges, IofC Indonesia, through some programs, collaborate with other change makers to try to find solutions. One of them is through education. Engaging teachers who closely helps these millennials build the future, create the awareness to teachers that the current world is now different than theirs. Creating space for the millennials to share ideas, to connect and build networking. Also creating everyone’s awareness to reject hoaxes and eliminate hate speech.

As you will discover, when reading this annual report, you will find activities related to learning. From teachers’ camps to internship,
from school visits to a youth conference, from a deep conversation at the School of Reconciliation to the fun rafting trip. Also meetings and gatherings aimed to update, to share with each other and to build larger networking and making sure we are hand in hand for a better society.

Besides what has already written in the report, many other initiatives were started by friends to promote peace, tolerance, and to achieve a “just and peaceful world”.

We realized that the initiatives that were taken during 2018 are small compared to other local and global big issues, but as it was said, the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. In line with these initiatives, we are grateful for your generous support and continued prayers. Another great appreciation also goes to all volunteers of IofC Indonesia and the global IofC family that have made all things possible, easier and more exciting!

Wishing you and each of us all a great and more productive year ahead.

Thank You.
Berbagi dan Menginspirasi; Sharing and Inspiring
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Indonesia: 68%
- India: 20%
- Malaysia: 8%
- Japan: 4%
The 50th Anniversary of Asia Plateau

The 50th Anniversary of Asia Plateau (AP) was attended by 300 people from more than 40 countries. This is a real melting division and diversity celebration for everyone. I was overwhelmed by the feeling of reuniting with some people I met 10-14 years back. The opening speech was delivered by the director of AP, Dr. Ravindra Rao. Dr. Rao welcomed everyone who commemorated the history of AP and the movement that builds the spirit of it. Ganesh Sawalesharkar, the Regional Post marker - General officially led the launching of the Asia Plateau post card. The Post-Card honored AP which had sent and received many letters since its establishment.

Tributes were paid to those who helped build AP and David Young was just the right person to retell the story, since he and his wife were there during the construction of the two buildings. They were invited by Rajmohan Gandhi, the initiator of AP, to manage the construction. David Young is not that young anymore, but his memory of how the building was built, and of the people who come and help, is still very clear. Everyone enjoyed the “look back” story, then he reminded everyone to “look forward” and to work to answer today’s challenges.

The remarks of the past history then joined by the launch of refreshed brand logo of IofC. A short video was played to give a brief story of why the logo should be changed, who team are and how it is then applied to IofC all over the world.

The first morning, January 18th, Quiet Time session was led by Jean Brown, “The wakeup call” ~ In the Quiet Time we were invited to be fully awake to see and hear what we are called to be and do. It’s not always comfortable. It is always a gift. Jean also reminded everyone of Frank Buchman’s first wakeup call; the “I too was wrong”. For me, the strong question that were raised is: are we living “reflectively” or “reactively”?

The after breakfast sessions were the “shared stories” from different people. On Day 1, the session was named “Melting division in the North East, dealing with hurt” led by Niketu Irelu and his wife. I didn’t really understand the conflict, but as they shared, they’ve mentioned the feeling of injustice and assaults from Indian government, because they look different than many Indians (and many other causes), it hurted them in so many ways and in so many years. And the sessions shared how many big hearts have forgiven each other, and started to treat each other better, by finding similarity as a human being. Another day, an inspiring session with The Imam Ashafa and Pastor James, on forgiving, and living in diversity and promoting peace between religions.

The after tea time sessions were the showcase of programs and partnership of Asia Plateau in enabling change in society. Many inspiring programs like Department of Happiness in Madhya Pradesh state, ethical leadership for government officers including police officers, rural outreach program such as Grampari, Peace Initiatives in North East, Leadership Programs and its impact for young people, the Education Today Society Tomorrow for educators, CSR Programs and Program for industries, and many more inspiring initiatives from other countries are also shared during the discussions.
I remember during a youth conference in 2006, one of my Indian friends gave me a 10 rupee bill as a souvenir and a reminder to visit India. And the history for myself is now written at the day I step my feet in India, in Panchgani, in Asia Plateau, The IofC Center that has been built for 50 years, a home of hope for many people.

“Celebrate differences, melting divisions.”

The selected theme for the event is just suited the current situation especially in Indonesia. Where differences and diversity are now complained as a major cause of divisions. Feeling hopeful, I came back home with a lighten torch to pass on to the team, to the people, that there’s hope for humanity, hope to celebrate our diversity rather than curse them and that hope could be us. I thank God, also everyone who made this journey possible.

Reported by Irna Yugaswatie

“The anniversary event can be a role model for the world, I saw how the participants applied the value of acceptance and tolerance, by accepting the varieties of ethnic, nations and religious in absolute terms. For example, there was a multi-faith prayer session, which all the believers from different religions got together to see and listen to another way of other religion pray. With my capacity as educational consultant, I will develop acceptance values on the agenda of trainings with the schools which is surely in collaboration with the IofC team in Indonesia.”

Reported by Muhamad Ramadhona

“I felt honored and thankful being surrounded by such great and wonderful people who come from various backgrounds. This international gathering was a space for us to reconnect with old friends, to build better relationships among nations, to discuss and to think of current issues in the world, and to take actions to help change the world. I am always impressed with the moral standards of purity, honesty, unselfishness, and love that we learn within IofC, and also the quote of ‘peace begins with us.’ Overall, I was blessed and grateful to be involved with the Asia Plateau Anniversary.”

Reported by Agus Mulyana
Agni Path

My highlight at Agni Path is about how I have come to redefine IofC, now with some variations; it can be simply to care and pray for a person or people we care for without any hidden agenda - just to be there to support that person or people. For some people they care for the leaders who become tools for change, and in this sense becoming a true friend to them is IofC work (I called it “Friends for Life”). I witnessed also how people live their faith and reach out to people beyond their normal circle to serve the world and make a difference.

Being in India for Agni Path made me convinced and inspired to continue what I am doing in Indonesia, in a very small capacity I have, that is to engage many people from different backgrounds to come together as one community, regardless their religious background and so on, and to have a space together to listen and talk respectfully. I am inspired to be the tools for the vision of an Indonesia that is strong, clean and united, to quote Rajmohan Gandhi’s vision for India.
With many new friends I just met in Agni Path and many who have already become my friends for life, I am grateful to have many friends from all over the world and they stay in my heart. Before coming I was so worried that I have nothing to share or talk about as I am doing small things in my capacity as a master’s student and also as a young father for my son. But then I realized I just need to be humble, be myself, and share what is important for me and the world.

In Indonesia I am working for Trust Building between Christians and Muslims by creating a space for listening and also for confronting prejudices and stereotyping. It enables me to reach out to more people on different islands in Indonesia, and I am grateful I have been equipped with useful skills like inner listening and Trust Building I got from IofC training. It gave me a hope that Indonesia needs IofC idea and people to work with the vision of creating a safe and peaceful space for justice and humanity.

As now I am working with Peace Generation, an organization that focuses on Countering Violence Extremism for youth in 5 different cities in Indonesia, I also feel connected to IofC globally as we have a similar focus. I am hoping there will be a collaboration between them in the future.

I am called to bring Indonesian leaders to AP, Caux and other IofC program as I believe Indonesia, a democratic, Muslim-majority country but not an Islamic state, has a very important role in remaking the world.

I think MRA or IofC was born because the big vision of remaking the world, and I was so touched by the film on Frank Buchman, “The Man Who Built Peace”. I didn’t read all the stories about him but what has touched me is his vision of bringing Japanese leaders to apologize to the world after WWII. It was no easy task, but it’s possible.

To end this, I’d like to keep aflame the fire (AGNI), the fire of inner listening, honest conversation and the vision of remaking the world, with you and me.

Multi-Faith Prayer at Quiet Time Session.

I am inspired to be the tools for the vision of an Indonesia that is strong, clean and united, to quote Rajmohan Gandhi’s vision for India.

Reported by Miftahul Huda
I felt privileged to join this year’s Asia Plateau Volunteers Internship Program (APVIP). The participants and I had different journeys and experiences. I felt connected more to myself, to nature, to people and one more important thing was listening to my inner voice. Through the ideas of IofC, I understand the beauty of differences and the values of relationships. In relationship issues, I wanted to rebuild my relationship with my older brother by correcting my own mistake.

At Asia Plateau I really enjoyed sharing or talking with people from different backgrounds, different religions, different communities and difference countries. Listening to their stories helped me to understand people on a different level and made me realize that everybody has his own journey.

We were invited to visit Pachputewadi village. We were given a chance to experience farming there and had meals together with the family. On global hand-washing day Grampari, a rural and ecological center, ran a school visit program. We were invited to meet and share with students. We demonstrated to the students how to wash our hands properly. I also had a chance to visit Pune with my group, while another group visited Mumbai. We met some IofC families and visited a museum, market and radio station.

During our country presentation sessions, Pipit, another participant from Indonesia and I presented about our resources, culture, food, currency, politics and education system of Indonesia. In the culture performance, I performed the Papuan dance. I was delighted that I could introduce Indonesian culture to other participants and to the IofC family in Asia Plateau. In the end, I was so grateful that I could meet and interact with great people and also join Asia Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) program, the 50th Anniversary of Asia Plateau and Agni Path.

I wanted to rebuild my relationship with my older brother by correcting my own mistake.

Reported by Neas Wanimbo
I was selected to be one of participants of the Asia Plateau Internship Program which is annually organized by IofC India. The participants came from Indonesia, Japan, India, Australia and Afghanistan. This program is part of learning and growing together through voluntary service, leadership and initiative. I learnt through attendance at seminars, workshops, conferences and other programmes in Asia Plateau, the centre of IofC India, which provides unique opportunities to hear the experts on various subjects and to have interactions with facilitators and participants coming from varied backgrounds. Some of the programs are Effective Living and Leadership (ELL) for industries program, Caux Scholar Program (CSP-AP), and Education Today, Society Tomorrow (ETST). The participants listened to each session and shared their stories of change and shared IofC values through playing skits and singing a song. The most important thing was to make changes starting within ourselves and to spread IofC values through our actions.

We had an Interactive Session during which we made presentations about our respective countries and had a cultural presentation. I learnt about the multi-cultural community, relationship-building and teamwork. This internship program also provides opportunities to all participants to work with and learn from village leaders and others from rural India. We visited a village conducted by Grampari. They welcomed us nicely and then we happily did farming activities together. The people served us very nice traditional food. I shall never forget the warm welcome we had and our time together.

During our internship program we had time to do outreach; one group went to Mumbai and another group went to Pune. I went to Mumbai together with my team. We visited some companies, and public schools where I had great experiences through traveling. We stayed with a host family and, like other families, we spent our leisure time having chit- chats, cooking, and doing housework. It felt like home because the atmosphere was comfortable. The host families were very kind and helpful and it was really enjoyable being with them. It was also a great time to inspire and engage each other based on IofC values through teamwork, supported learning and growing close to each other and also story sharing. Last but not least, it was a part of trust-building training in real life about how we can work and walk together with different people but still provide care and support to create peace and a better future.

Reported by Samrotul Mufidah
Positive Teachers’ Camp #1

*Generasi Cerdas Indonesia* (GCI) collaborated with Initiatives of Change (IoC) to run a Teachers’ Camp on 27 – 28 April 2018 in Bogor. The theme of this two-day camp was Reflective Teaching: Let’s Learn from our Reflected Experience. This program was attended by 28 professional teachers from different schools. They were divided into groups together with a facilitator in each group. During the camp, the participants learnt about reflective teaching. Reflective teaching is related to a process of self-observation and self-evaluation. Teachers observe, evaluate, and think about the way they behave and teach in the classroom.

Muhamad Ramadhona, founder of GCI delivered his welcoming remarks and thanked all participants who took part in this camp. “Teachers play big roles in the lives of the students. I hope that each of us gain lots of learning in this camp.”

Teguh Khaerudin, a lecturer of UIN Jakarta led the session on reflective teaching. A question was raised to interpret a quote that said that experience is the best teacher. One participant said, “I believe that experience could be a tool for self-introspection.” From the discussion, we found out experience would not be wasted when we learnt from it. John Dewey, an American philosopher said we do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience. A teacher experiences different things from each class that he or she teaches. Our first evening session was about methods of reflective teaching. A teacher can also develop his or her skills in reflecting by having self-reporting, journaling, recording the learning process.

On the second day, we started by having inner reflection and a sharing session. Miftahul Huda, one of the facilitators shared about the essence of self-reflection in our life. “We tend to be busy doing our daily routines, but we forget to reflect on what we are doing. Many times we complain about what is happening. We forget to have moments of silence to recall things that happen in our life. In this session, Irna Yugaswatie shared about
her experience in having quiet times. “As a trainer, I meet various teachers in training them about google for education. I used to complain about some teachers who did not respond to the materials well for some reasons. Once I had a quiet time and realized that instead of complaining, I learnt to be more patient and figure out what method I should apply in training teachers. I could feel how quiet time helps me focus on doing my activities.” To end the session, the participants were asked to have a quiet time with the inputs: (1) What am I grateful for as a teacher?, (2) How do I play my role as a teacher? We shared in our groups and listened to one another.

Tanenji, a lecturer of UIN Jakarta, led a session about Creative Problem Solving. The participants were divided into groups and each group discussed questions what they wanted to ask and other groups would think of other groups’ questions. Some questions were: (1) How could a teacher be a good writer?, (2) How to create creative teaching process?, (3) How to be consistent in inspiring students? Having had discussions, the participants read what other groups had responded to their questions and concluded the answers. This session emphasized on having discussions and that the importance of discussion is to listen to others’ points of view. Through discussions, the participants shared their thoughts on how to be an inspiring teacher and listened to others’ thought sharing. In the end, each group presented on the conclusions they made. During the presentation, the participants delivered the presentation by implementing 3 elements of communication which was identified by Albert Mehrabian, professor of Emeritus Psychology: (1) Visual (body languages, including facial expressions), (2) Verbal (the words themselves), and (3) Vocal (tones of voice).
We also had a chance to learn about teaching with technology led by Irna Yugaswatie, a google educator. A teacher should be aware of the development of technology. We learnt about technology literacy that as an educator, teachers should be able to effectively use technology in order to enhance the learning process.

During the decision making session, I welcomed all participants to have self-reflection. The quote was from Stephen Covey, being proactive means taking initiatives. I started the session by encouraging all participants to reflect on what happened in these two days. As Tanenji stated in his session, “we do not have authorities to change the education system but we can create our own teaching method in order to approach the students and to create a comfortable learning environment”, I encouraged all participants to reflected on: (1) As a teacher, what change can I create?, (2) What can I do in accordance to my competence as a teacher?

At the end of the session, we had an appreciation session. Committee and participants gave appreciation in turn that we believe each of us played a role in making this conference happen. Participants expressed their appreciation to all the committee who had worked wholeheartedly. One participant said, “The young energetic facilitators were amazing. Thank you for organizing this inspiring program.” We finally reflected on how we put knowledge into practice. The participants were ready to apply what they have learnt during the camp in each school. We hope that IofC and GCI keep the partnership by collaborating to create a better education.

Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom
On 5-6 May 2018 IofC Indonesia organized a fun rafting to Cikidang, Sukabumi City. It is 120 km away from Jakarta. The trip started on 5 May in the evening to Bogor. In Bogor, we met and stayed overnight in the mosque, Harakatul Jannah which was led by our advisor, Ustad Agus Mulyana. We were from 3 different cities; Jakarta, Bandung and Serang. There was one participant from Bangladesh, Annisha who was participating in an internship program in Sampahkoe community. That night, we listened to Ustad Agus’s speech.

He shared about how we have a blessed life. Blessing is the goodness added in all we do. It’s not measured by the materialistic things we have but rather the peaceful life we have. Then we had the chance to ask questions or problems we are facing to Ustadz and he gave really wise answers. Our friend, Mostafa visited us; he was the participant of Life Matters Course program from Afghanistan who has been living in Indonesia for 3 years.

Spiritual Meeting and Fun Rafting with IofC Family
In the early morning we continued going to Cikidang, Sukabumi. Along the way to Cikidang, we had breakfast and arrived in Cikidang at 9 am ready for rafting. The guide briefly explained how to use the pedal, life jacket and safely helmet.

After that we were separated into 4 groups of boats. This rafting was about 13 km and it took hours to reach the finish line. It was really fun. I thought I would have an aching body and it would scare me because this rafting was on an advanced level. We could have been through this together. My new friend, Ijal from Bandung said that when we were on the boat, all we have to do is to let the wave in the river bring us ahead. Sometimes we do not need to worry about the wave, just relax and enjoy.

All of us felt happy and thanked each other for this trip. Rama shared that it is not only fun rafting, but also a spiritual journey. Rafting is also about teamwork and leadership.

One thing I learnt from this trip was that there is no wifi in the river, but I promise you’ll find a better connection. We might not know each other well, but by going together it could bring us to become a great team.

One thing I learnt from this trip was that there is no wifi in the river, but I promise you’ll find a better connection.

Reported by Anne Rufaida
Positive Teachers' Camp #2

A Teachers’ Camp Batch 2 for teachers of SMA Negeri 14 Jakarta was held on 11 – 12 May 2018. It was conducted at Bumi Gumati Resort, Bogor. The theme of this two-day camp was Reflective Teaching: Let’s Learn from our Reflected Experience. Muhamad Ramadhona, founder of GCI welcomed all participants and thanked the school principal for her support in this camp. “Through this Positive Teachers’ Camp, we hope that each of us will feel inspired to learn through this time together, particularly for the success of your school.”

Dumaria, the school principal delivered her welcoming speech. “I would like to thank Generasi Cerdas Indonesia (GCI) for their continued collaboration. I am looking forward to following the sessions and interacting with the young facilitators.”

Teguh Khaerudin, a lecturer of UIN Jakarta led the session on reflective teaching. Just as it happened during the first teachers’ camp, a question was raised to interpret a quote which said that experience is the best teacher. John Dewey, an American philosopher, said we do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience. A teacher experiences different things from each class that he or she teaches. Our first evening session was about methods of reflective teaching. A teacher can also develop his or her skills in reflecting by having self-reporting, journaling and recording the learning process.

On the second day, we started having inner reflection and a sharing session. Umam, one of the facilitators shared how to apply -
self-reflection in our daily life. “Inner reflection plays an essential role in bringing more awareness to practicing gratitude. The participants were asked to have a quiet time with the input: What am I grateful for as a teacher? We shared in pairs and listened to one another.

During the presentation, the participants delivered the presentation by implementing 3 elements of communication which were identified by Albert Mehrabian, professor of Emeritus Psychology from UCLA: (1) 55% Visual (body languages, including facial expressions), (2) 7% Verbal (the words themselves), and (3) 38% Vocal (tones of voice). Tanenji also asked the participants to reflect on how we can play our role being a good Indonesian society.

During the decision making session, I shortly reviewed how the camp had been running. I then encouraged the participants to have self-reflection on the question: What can I do in accordance to my competence as a teacher? Self-reflection guides us to create action steps we can take. The quote was from Stephen Covey, being proactive means taking initiatives. As Tanenji stated in his session, “We do not have the authority to change the education system but we can create our own teaching methods in order to approach the students and to create a comfortable learning environment”.

In the closing session, Muhamad Ramadona delivered his closing speech and encouraged the participants to apply what they have learnt during the camp in their school. At last we felt grateful for all committee members for their support, caring and great work.

Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom
Film Screening “The Man Who Built Peace” and Interfaith Talk

On 26 May 2018 we had a film screening and discussion of The Man Who Built Peace. This event was held at Tanri Abeng University (TAU). The Man Who Built Peace is a documentary film which captured the life journey of Frank Buchman in bringing peace and was followed by a lively discussion. Many people may never have heard of Frank Buchman and that he had played big roles in changing the world. Frank Buchman was the founder of Moral Re-Armament, now known as Initiatives of Change (IoC).

The session started with a prayer and the singing of the Indonesian national anthem. We continued singing one of IoC’s songs, “It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” The message of the song is to encourage each of us to light a candle for unity. Andi Anugrah, a representative of the student senate welcomed the committee and participants to TAU and was looking forward to learning through the session. “I believe this program will bring good impacts and positive energy for us.” Meanwhile the representative of the executive council of students, Ilham Nur, thanked the IoC team for the collaboration with TAU.

Akhmad Khairul Umam, the lecturer of TAU, also the former president of IoC Indonesia, led the session of film screening by sharing his point of view about Frank Buchman. “Frank Buchman was a unique and wonderful person. He was a devout Christian but his approach included people of other faiths.” Irna Yugaswatie, president of IoC Indonesia, said this film inspires us in applying the path we should take in responding to things happening today. This film is relevant today to share messages of hope and peace. As quoted by Frank Buchman, “If everyone cared enough and everyone shared enough, everyone would have enough.” Sharing will enrich us with joy and happiness. Through this film we also
realize more that human beings need moral and spiritual awakening.

After the discussion, Nonie, our IofC friend, shared how she was introduced to IofC. “I attended the annual Youth Leadership programme in 2012 which was conducted in Semarang. I was impressed with the camp and kept getting involved with IofC programs till now. In 2017, I lost my grandfather named Kusumawardhy, also known as John, who was the brother of my mother’s father. As a matter of fact, Mr. Kusumawardhy used to be part of MRA/IofC and surprisingly, he and his wife were introduced to MRA/IofC by my own grandfather (my mother’s father), Soenarto. My late grandfather, Soenarto used to be a government employee. “Having known about my background, I feel more connected with IofC and I am blessed to have been on a journey with this movement.” Nonie’s mother, Siti Ambarini also attended today’s gathering and shared her childhood memory with her father. “My father often traveled abroad for his work and MRA/IofC activities. I loved to collect postcards sent by my father since I was eight. I didn’t understand why I did so, but now I find that it’s worth it. I could show them to my daughter and her IofC friends. When I was a child, we often hosted MRA/IofC friends from various countries. I saw them staying in silent and sharing their stories in group, I didn’t understand what they were doing. After years, I got to know from my daughter that it was called a quiet time.” Nonie and her mother shared in an empowering way and we were moved by the stories.

During our interfaith talk, we learn to increase our understanding of other religions, respect diversities, and build our appreciation of others’ values. Miftahul Huda, program director of Trust Building IofC Indonesia, shared that it is important to exposure people to intercultural and interfaith and most importantly, experiencing them in our day-to-day life will help us break prejudices and build trust. He campaigns in his social media account “Trust Not Terror” in order to invite people to spread love for all and hatred for none. Trust needs to be earned in order to build a strong and united Indonesia. Huda will continue his work in trust building to bring young people together to listen and understand each other.

Another speaker, Binsar Pakpahan, a priest, also an alumnus of Caux IofC said this time people tend to trust news on the internet without identifying the fake from the real. The spread of misinformation also includes religious issues that may disrupt the truth and create conflicts among people. “Religions lead us to God, not create wars and conflicts. We need to deepen our knowledge and understanding of our religion, spread goodness and respect others.” Responding to what happened recently in Indonesia in which a family carried out bomb attacks on three churches in Surabaya, we felt that each of us had responsibilities to promote peace, embrace our differences, and fight against terrorism.
The participants appreciated the IofC team for arranging this event and hoped to run this program continuously. At the end of the session, our Moslem friends had fast breaking and enjoyed the meals and conversations. We had good times together and will build strong friendships and partnership in the future.

Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom

Religions lead us to God, not create wars and conflicts. We need to deepen our knowledge and understanding of our religion, spread goodness and respect others.

- Priest Binsar Pakpahan
School of Reconciliation

The second session of Reading Class was conducted in Bandung, 27 May 2018. It ran well with participants from Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) and friends from Peace Generation (PeaceGen). Four participants got to know this program from Instagram and others were recommended by the member of School of Reconciliation.

We started the session with Quiet Time and sharing. Some participants who joined the last workshop shared about their personal updates. It was so amazing that the power of “change starts with me” work in our life. We learn to take action in life. Life changes, to become loving and positive persons.

Here are their testimony:

LD, 23 years old
It’s amazing. During the last workshop we talked about feeling and life. I am a kind of person who is burning to rebel to my family. I also got turning point within that I wanted to make it better my relationship with my parents. My parent and I get used to have clash about our belief in life. However, now I got more courage to have dialogue with my parent. And we got to a point of very emotional among us. I knew that they are my guardians who love me with their way. I used to see my father was very far from me, now he could be more expressive and so did my mom which makes me so happy. To have this reading class means SR is not only experiential learning, but this is also scientific. We must read all the books and I love it.

JR, 23 years old
Family is the source of power. We can be a very successful or even unlucky person because of family. I had no confidence toward my future family life. And this class is very good exercise.

SA, 35 years old
After attending the workshop, I can heal my life and know more about myself. After my workshop there are some progressive. I feel the holes inside me has got filled, yet still not all. My perspective now is more open. Now I am very optimistic and the reason coming here is for my son.

DR, 24 years old
I was interested with SR because I concern about family issues. I have problem with my parents, and I didn’t know how to solve it. I reflected to my family, my dad always fights with my mom. I believe that there is something wrong with them. I really want to learn about family issues, how we solve the problem. I just kept all burdens within. I know I have wounds. In the outside world people look at me I am shining, but inside I feel so fragile. I don’t know who I am. Now I know what I should do.

AN, 24 years old
I believe that family is the most important part in life. What I see in my family is weird. My father did not support the family financially for years. I want to see that the role of my father and mother functioning well. I have many wonders to my mom, why she is willing to survive the life with my dad, and many more, that’s what I want to learn from this circle.

This is the last program of SR and IoFC in this Ramadhan, and now we are preparing for led Mubarak. We will discussed about forgiveness and hope. SR and IoFC can guide us to give a new understanding about forgiveness during led. We can be better person, contribute to our family, to our country, and to build strong community and country. Create a better world for future generations.

Reported by Nenden Vinna M. & Nur Hayati S.
Positive Teachers’ Camp #3

Initiatives of Change (IofC) Indonesia supported the Positive Teachers’ Camp Batch III organized by GCI (Generasi Cerdas Indonesia). This camp was attended by teachers of SMA Negeri 28 Jakarta. It was conducted on 29 – 30 June 2018 in Bogor. The theme of this two-day camp was Leadership and Communication. Muhamad Ramadhona, founder of GCI warmly welcomed all teachers and school staff. “It is an honor for us to collaborate with SMA Negeri 28 Jakarta.” Through this camp, the participants learnt and discussed about character, critics, communication, collaboration, creativity, and literacy. We hope that each of us were inspired and received insights to be the real educators. After the opening ceremony, we had ice-breaking and were divided into groups.

We can learn to develop our communication skills in order to interact with our students well. During this session, the participants practiced listening to another participant’s sharing without interrupting. They learnt to understand of listening. As a teacher, we learn to listen with the intention to understand. We can express our care to our students by listening because being listened to is so close to being cared for.

Teguh Khaerudin, a lecturer of UIN Jakarta led the session on Reflective Thinking in Leadership. We started the session by filling in a K-W-L chart: What I know, What I want to know, and What I learnt. The participants were asked to fill in the form about what they know about reflection, what they want to know about reflection in this camp, and after the session they filled in the form of what they would finally learn about reflection. Just as it happened during the first and the second teachers’ camp, a question was raised to interpret a quote which said that experience is the best teacher. John Dewey, an American philosopher, said we do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience.
Having lots of experiences does not always make us wiser, however reflecting on the experiences will give us lessons. A teacher experiences different things from each class that he or she teaches and, through these experiences, a teacher can strengthen his or her capacity and improve teaching ability. Reflection can be applied through self-reflection and also by sharing with other colleagues.

Khairul Umam, one of the facilitators, led the session on Inner Reflection. In many moments of our lives we face challenges and problems. Through inner reflection, we learn to listen to our inner voice. God gave us two ears and one mouth, we should listen twice as much as we speak. We can do inner reflection/quiet time session by looking up (connection), looking in (correction), and looking out (direction). Writing down our thoughts will also help us.

In the evening, we continued the session on Inner Reflection. It was about Unpacking Silence Experience and Life Story Sharing. During this session, the participants were guided to have inner reflection. In the moment of inner reflection, we learn to listen quietly to our inner voice. Great things have their origin in silence. “Inner reflection plays an essential role in bringing more awareness to practicing gratitude.” The participants were given space to have a quiet time with the inputs: What kind of teacher/staff are you?; What kind of teacher/staff do you want to be?; What do you need to change to be that kind of teacher/staff? One teacher shared, “I want to be an inspired teacher and I still encourage myself to learn more about development of technology.” A staff member shared, “I keep trying to work sincerely and have integrity.” Another teacher said, “I want to be a role model to my students and create a good environment during my class.”

On the second day, we started with morning reflection. Muhamad Ramadhona shared about his life experience on how he found his life’s passion and a career he loved. “I used to work in a multinational company which focuses on development of educational technology. I enjoyed my career and earned more than enough. Once I attended a seminar that gave me highlights about finding my passion and what steps I had to take in doing my passions. I found that I wanted to fully follow my passion. I finally decided to resign from the company and so did my wife who worked at the same company. With the power of prayer and hard work, we built our educational company, GCI (Generasi Cerdas Indonesia). It has been 4 years, we face many challenges but we are so grateful that more and more schools have collaborated with GCI.” Afterwards, we had a quiet time session and today’s quiet time inputs were: (1) How do I live my life as a teacher?; (2) How do I inspire my students? One teacher said, “I not only want to encourage my students to learn but also to inspire them to be better persons.” We, then had team building activities. The outdoor activity was aimed at building an awareness of team spirit and cooperation.
Wendi Wijarwadi, an auditor in a government office, led a session about Conflict Management in an Organization. Conflicts cannot be avoided, but it is possible to overcome and manage them. We were divided into groups and shared about internal conflicts at school. Blake and Mouton (1964) identified five modes of handling conflict: forcing, withdrawing, smoothing, compromising, and problem solving.

We were divided into two groups in the next session during which teachers discussed Creative Problem Solving while school staff talked about playing important roles in school. Tanenji, a lecturer at UIN Jakarta, led a session about Creative Problem Solving. The participants were divided into groups and each group discussed questions that they wanted to ask and other groups would think of questions from other groups. This session emphasized having discussions and that the importance of discussion is to listen to other points of view. Through discussions, the participants shared their thoughts on how to be an inspiring teacher and listened to others sharing their thoughts. In the end, each group presented the conclusions they made. During the presentation, the participants delivered the presentation by implementing 3 elements of communication which were identified by Albert Mehrabian, Professor Emeritus of Psychology from UCLA: (1) 55% Visual (body languages, including facial expressions), (2) 7% Verbal (the words themselves), and (3) 38% Vocal (tone of voice). Tanenji also asked the participants to reflect on how we can play our part in creating a good Indonesian society.

Wendi Wijarwadi facilitated the session for school staff. They were given space to share about their experiences as school staff, what went well and what needs to be improved at school. They discussed ways to provide excellent services to teachers and students in order to improve the quality of education. It was so interesting and meaningful that the participants could openly share, discuss, and figure out solutions together.

To end the camp, we had a session on decision making and goal setting. During this session, the highlights of the camp were reviewed in order to reflect on what had happened. All participants were encouraged to have self-reflection on the questions: What can I do in accordance to my competence as a teacher or school staff? Self-reflection guides us to have a moment of silence, to practice introspection, and to think about the next steps to be taken. The quote was from Stephen Covey; being proactive means taking initiatives. As Tanenji stated in his session, “We do not have the authority to change the education system but we can create our own teaching methods in order to approach the students and to create a comfortable learning environment”.

In the closing session, Muhamad Ramadhona delivered his closing speech and hoped to build further partnership with SMA Negeri 28 Jakarta. The participants were encouraged to apply in their school what they had learnt during the camp, such as having inner reflection with other colleagues and students at school. We were grateful for this two-day camp and appreciated all the committee for their work, cooperation, and cheerfulness.

Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom
Homecoming “School of Reconciliation”

On 23-30 June, 2018 we had the upgraded training from AKASHA Learning Companionship Association in Malaysia. Nandor Lim, the CEO of Akasha and team warmly welcomed and hosted us during our stay in Malaysia.

Here are the learnings the participants shared:

The biggest impact from this training is to live my life fully and stop comparing myself to others. I want to appreciate myself more. I choose to enjoy my life without any comparison because we are unique in our own way.

Samrotul Mufidah
This training helped me to find the diamonds of my life. It is also recharging and refreshing. For Muslims friends, this training follows the spirit of reflection, the month of purity and coming back to ourselves spiritually.

Nur Hayati Syafii

I see myself now as a beautiful adult who wants to face the future with courage with my husband and my kid. I know that life has problems, but we need to reconstruct life and it starts with oneself.

Ulya Arifah

My most impactful learning is how to live my journey as a person, as a part of a family, and community full of love and happiness both inside and outside.

Fikrie Arief

From this training, I will continue to know more about my family genogram. By getting to know more about myself and my family, I want to strengthen the relationship with my family.

Rahmad Hidayadi

This training helped me to find the diamonds of my life. It is also recharging and refreshing. For Muslims friends, this training follows the spirit of reflection, the month of purity and coming back to ourselves spiritually.

The metaphor used for the genogram is a “family tree”, because it really resembles a tree: the hidden part is the root but it is vital.

Dhuha Hadiansyah

I understand that I am growing inside, how I think, how I see things and the way I solve problems. My attitude may not change much and people may not notice, but I accept myself the way I am.

Nenden Mutiara Ulfa

The lesson that impacts me the most is about the power of love. Love can transform fear. Love helps us to transform knowledge into wisdom. Love helps my inner child to trust me day by day. Love helps me to accept myself sincerely, so no more comparing, as I am responsible only to my own feelings and not other people. Love can transform hurt into forgiveness. Love transforms difficulties into blessings. My future, my life purpose, is being a loving adult.

Rina

I will go home to love myself unconditionally, accept my past, understand fears and learn to express my emotions and feelings to strengthen my real self for my family, friends and society. Although family issues are not mainstream and not discussed in public, and also not my concern, family issues have become my interest and part of my work now.

Miftahul Huda

Two insights come into mind as my commitment: Be aware of surroundings and people around me. Keep the environment clean. I want to support my mom in how she is living her life this moment. May she forgive my father and live peacefully. I know this will take time and I will learn to be patient.

Dinnie H. Firdausi

With my family genogram, I came to the conclusion that we are like a tree, and its roots are the family of our origin. Therefore, we should not be uprooted. It is natural that

IofC Indonesia visited Akasha Learning Center
Asia Plateau Volunteers Internship Program

Before coming to Asia Plateau (AP), I doubted myself, I was not confident and felt worried whether I could adjust with new people and a new place. I was also concerned about my mother and our business. I had not travelled abroad and so my mother was worried about me. I think that being at Asia Plateau (AP) was my destiny. My expectation before coming to AP was to change my perspective about life because I tended to be pessimistic, and not have courage to dream. I wanted to discover myself and to feel peaceful and happy. I felt uneasy with people and insecure, and was afraid of being judged. I also could not easily express my feelings and ideas. I easily judge myself and people around me.

After I came to AP, I discovered that people are nice, humble, and friendly. I felt so peaceful and shared my thoughts and inner listening with people. In the beginning, it was difficult to write down what was on my mind and I felt nervous to share my stories. I forced myself to do it. Having routine inner listening helped me to reduce my uneasiness and I could freely share my thoughts. I am now more open minded and clear with what I want.

Meeting new people, listening to their life experiences, attending programs, and staying around people helped me to understand more about people’s lives. I was so inspired by their stories and I felt more comfortable to express my feelings. Also, people around AP helped me a lot to grow.

Those experiences made me realize and reflect on myself that I have to put away my judgment, control my emotions, start to listen to small voices within me, appreciate what I have and what people do, forgive myself, and the most important thing to start loving myself. I became a happier and more peaceful person. I had a chance to join the outreach program 3 days in different schools. This program is aimed at introducing IoFC values, to apply daily quiet time, and to share stories. I also joined with Grampari programs with lots of meaningful programs. Not many people realize the importance of hand washing with soap, and there are a lot of children dying because of diseases such as diarrhea which occurs due to unclean hands. The Grampari team have done great work in making the people aware of its importance.
We five interns spent 8 days in Mumbai where we stayed at the IofC house with the couple there. They treated us like their grandchildren with love and care. It was such an amazing experience for me. This was also my first time of having our fasting month abroad. It was challenging as I was the only Moslem in my group. I reminded myself that I could handle this especially when we had a tour. Another interesting thing to experience is team building. As an introverted person, I tried to express my thoughts openly and learn about non-violent communication and the art of having a dialogue.

Panchgani is a beautiful place with varied cultures and beliefs and the people are so loving and kind. I was amazed to see the women still valuing and wearing traditional dress and also their love for every living being. I also admire the place for its efforts to reduce plastic and to maintain peace. I hope to return some day.

After coming back to Indonesia, I want to fully support my family business and get more involved with IofC Indonesia. I also want to be more cheerful and have faith in my life journey.

Having routine inner listening helped me to reduce my uneasiness and I could freely share my thoughts..

Reported by Wahyu Niaga Sari
"Halal Bi Halal" Initiatives of Change (IofC) Indonesia

After the long break holiday for Ied Fithri for Muslims friends, they finally returned to their homes where they lived or worked. Following the holy month (Ramadhan), Syawal is the time when people gather to greet each other, seeking the self-purification in all of us by asking for forgiveness from each other, to be grateful and to celebrate life. This is called Halal Bihalal.

IofC held the Halal Bihalal on 7th July at Generasi Cerdas Indonesia (GCI) office, the training educational company which belongs to the president of IofC Indonesia, sister Irna Yugaswatie.

The specialty of Halal Bihalal was that each person brought special snacks or food from their hometown to share during the gathering. As Indonesia has a lot of different tribes, cultures, and foods, this was a time to share the uniqueness of towns throughout Indonesia. The return of a gof a team who had just been to the Malaysia/AKASHA Learning Companionship and India Internship program left a different taste of this Halal Bihalal gathering.

Started at 10 am by Quiet Time and sharing. One of the sharings was “I want to express my appreciation to Irna and the team for working hard for this amazing activation of IofC through many programs and activities that have been run well, and the spreading of news/info through social media for upcoming programs in IofC Indonesia. Thank you so much. I read a book which talks about a Professor from Japan. He is 104 years old. He is very healthy and has lived a long life. He mentioned in the book that we should live like a kid, having no pressure and demands. Follow the flow.”, Umam

Most participants shared that they miss meeting the IofC family, to have quiet time together, sharing and listening to each other’s story and hearing about the inspiration they got from their holiday.

After our break time at 1 pm, we continued the activity of making the family tree by the team who came from AKASHA. It was a lively activity for participants.

Those who experienced this activity for the first time were so enthusiastic to continue researching and asking anything they are curious about. One of the trainers explained, “To understand about ourselves we need to understand the history of our ancestors;
She expressed that she found her true self in India with her interactions with different interns from many countries.

One of her stories of change was through Facebook where she confronted her old friend who used to abuse her when she was a kid. It was a new finding and it took courage to do such a thing in her life. She was not sure what would happen when she confronted her, but unbelievably it went smoothly with this old friend. The old friend asked forgiveness from her and this helped her to feel peaceful inside without fear anymore. She thanked IofC Indonesia and IofC India for this opportunity that gave her this real change in herself. She has now committed herself to be involved more in IofC Indonesia.

Reported by Nur Hayati Syafii

To understand about ourselves we need to understand the history of our ancestors; what had happened to them, what condition they had, etc. Our upbringing did not leave us only material/money, but they leave us with emotions, wounds, customs, traditions as well as learning and beliefs.

- Nenden Vinna M. Ulfa
School Visit Program (SVP) Japan

I felt privileged to be selected as one of the School Visit Program (SVP) volunteers in Japan. This program was held from 15 June till 15 July 2018. Japan is one of countries I really wanted to visit since I was child. It was my dream to step foot in the country which is famous for Sakura and Anime. For me, Japan and Indonesia have a strong connection because of the history we have had. What brought me to Japan was my intention to contribute and to share my stories to the students and IofC family in Japan.

Other volunteers were from Tibet, Lebanon, and Sri Lanka. I had met them before when I joined the Asia Plateau Volunteers’ Internship Program in India, and therefore I felt easy to-
connect and work with them. During the program, we visited 23 schools from Elementary School to University level. We interacted with students, played games, presented our countries and introduced the ideas of IofC through skits, personal story sharing and songs. We also had question and answer sessions and gave the students space to share. Each school was unique and we found that the students were inspired and enjoyed the sessions.

We also had a chance to experience Japanese culture such as the tea ceremony. We visited Bonsai museum, Edo Era Museum, nature and historical museum and attended a Summer Festival. We stayed with a host family in Kakegawa prefecture. I had a chance to stay in one of the student’s home and I still keep in touch. It felt like home and it was really enjoyable being with them.

This journey was really meaningful for me, and I call it an inner journey where I learnt how to respond to situations and control my emotions. This journey made me understand about myself more. I also learnt about teamwork and leadership; as a team we helped and cared for each other. I felt really grateful to meet and work with amazing people.

However, I still need to learn how to communicate well with senior people especially older men. It reminds me that I also still find it difficult to communicate with my father. I want to improve day by day. There is no word to describe my gratitude to the IofC Japan and JSVP team for giving me this opportunity and giving me such a wonderful experience.

This journey was really meaningful for me, and I call it an inner journey where I learnt how to respond to situations and control my emotions.

Reported by Siti Rukoyah
The Power of Story Telling through Social Media

IofC Indonesia was invited by Tempo Media Group to attend a workshop on the 15th August 2018 with the theme of The Power of Story Telling through Social Media. The session started by getting to know each other. Bagja Hidayat, the speaker, talked about 6 techniques to share stories in social media and they are: angle, focus, narration, scene, anecdote, and language. Fadli Sofyan, another speaker from Creative Digital Marketing, explained how to make social media an interesting platform for a community to interact with their followers, especially young people.

Knowing the purpose about the things we post, the content must be short and clear, giving questions in the post so people can respond, and to have a creative design for display.

Before the workshop ended, the representatives of Tempo Media Group, told us that they were offering co-working space to all communities who joined the workshop. Those communities who have an interest in using the co-working space will be provided rooms for seminar/workshop space and networking with other communities.

Reported by Dinnie H. Firdausi

“There’s always room for a story that can transport people to another place.”

- J.K. Rowling
Saturday Gathering: Learning from Experience

On 18 August, 2018 we had a Saturday Gathering at the IofC house. Siti Rukoyah (Ukoy), one of the volunteers of the School Visit Program (SVP) shared her experiences during her stay in Japan. She, together with other volunteers from Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Tibet visited 23 different school in 6 cities around Japan. She was happy to meet and work with the amazing people there. This year’s SVP was held from 15 June till 15 July 2018.

During the program, the volunteers presented their countries and interacted with the teachers and students. “I enjoyed playing skits in front of the students, got chances to share about my personal story, and sang songs with my team.” The students were also given space to share and ask questions to each volunteer. Besides visiting schools, they also experienced the Japanese culture and visited some tourism destinations in Japan such as a Bonsai museum and attended a Summer Festival. Ukoy was amazed with the kindness of her host family and it felt like being at home.

This experience was so meaningful for her and she learnt to control her emotions, to care for people, and to be a good listener. “Being back in Indonesia, I thought of applying the learnings I got during SVP by collaborating with Sampahkoe Community. Sampahkoe is an environmental community focused on encouraging waste reduction through AR3E (Action, Research, Education, Empowerment, Entrepreneurship).” This community is based in Sukabumi, where she lived and it was founded by Khilda, one of our IofC Indonesia friends. “I will also be more involved with IofC programs in Indonesia.” Finally, Ukoy thanked the IofC team who supported her in joining this program and felt grateful for the warm hospitality of the IofC Japan family.

Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom
what I have learned during my last internship at Asia Plateau.

The activities involve travelling to different parts of India from southern to north eastern parts of India, sharing stories, playing skits, running leadership training programs, visiting communities, students, corporates, and governments. This opportunity gave me a chance to find my higher purpose or my calling in life and also the need for the person I want to be and not who others want me to be. This program has given me an amazing journey and changed my way of thinking towards the world and myself. One thing I learned about is, “if you want to touch someone’s heart, then first touch your own heart”.

Sharing our personal change story is not just about participating but when I share my stories I understand more about myself and I feel relaxed, find liberation and peace of mind from the feelings of some burdens, and at the same time inspire others. Additionally, through this program I also learn about leading IofC sessions, teamwork and of course improving my English skill.

I intended to join this program because in my life I have received so much support, love and care from families, friends, communities, and people around me, to support me to become who I am right now. I want to give back what I have received from them to the society. This outreach program is a good opportunity for

If you want to touch someone’s heart, then first touch your own heart.

Reported by Neas Wanimbo
IofC Indonesia Gathering in Bandung

This year’s Iedul Qurban for Moslems around the globe was on the 22 August, following the spirit of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, Ismail and to celebrate the life we have now. The School of Reconciliation (SR) team set a gathering to reflect and celebrate the life we have now. It was on Sunday, 26 August 2018 in Bandung. This was really the space for everyone. I Accept You Completely was the theme for this gathering.

There were 4 activities in this gathering. The first one was a Quiet Time and Sharing session. People were so keen to join this session. They long for the space where they can listen and connect with themselves. The input for today’s quiet time was “How would we return the love that we received from God”. People shared freely their insights and thoughts after the quiet time. It is releasing to each person in this gathering to share, refresh and awaken to listen to the others’ sharing as well.

After sharing, we read the book On the Family. We discussed the first chapter about the crisis happening in the family. We participated and interacted to share our experiences based on the paragraph we just read. At lunch time, we had a BBQ as we received a lot of beef from a neighboring mosque and families from the Qurban. After that, we listened to the Talk about Life (TAL) session from Arijal. He shared there are many beauties in his life. One he quoted - We find the beauty of life when we pass conflicts smoothly. Febri and Rayhan, the cousins who came back from Syria, shared deeply on what the motives were for their family to go to Syria, how they lived there and how they struggled to get out of the country. Febri expressed that this was the second life for him from God.

Living in Syria was full of feeling scared, every hour hearing the exploding of bombs. He did not know what would happen to him and his family in the next few hours. He already surrendered to God with his life. Rayhan’s father died there because of the bombing. After a lot of drama, luckily the response of the Indonesian Embassy in Iraq helped them transfer and to finally touch down in Indonesia. Febri and Rayhan shared that they will use their life to inspire other people and share their valuable experience to the Indonesian younger generation, so that no one will be deceived by ISIS on the internet any more. They started a new life in the land of hope, Indonesia, their home country to share the light they gained from this very rare story in their life. We closed the sessions and learnings for all with a photo session.

Reported by Nur Hayati Syafii
Positive Teachers’ Camp #4

This year was the fourth time that Initiatives of Change (IofC) Indonesia supported the Positive Teachers’ Camp organized by GCI (Generasi Cerdas Indonesia). This two-day camp was attended by teachers of SMA Negeri 8 Jakarta. It was conducted on 29 – 30 September 2018 in Bogor and the theme of the camp was Effective Leadership. Muhamad Ramadhona, founder of GCI delivered his opening remarks and said, “We are enthusiastic to welcome all of you and are looking forward to sharing and learning together in this prestigious camp.”

The first session was Active Listening led by Teguh Khaerudin, a lecturer of UIN Jakarta. Nowadays, people can easily express and update their personal lives through social medias. Yet, we tend to be ignorant and not to listen. As a matter of fact, listening skill is one of the most important skills we should have. Listening skill is needed so that we could interact with our colleagues and students well. Expressing our care to students can be shown by listening to them because being listened to is so close to being cared for. The components in listening skill are (1) empathy, which means the listener’s desire to understand the speaker’s feeling, (2) acceptance means having respect for a person for simply being a person, (3) congruence means in touch with ourselves, and (4) concreteness means focusing on the specifics rather than generalities.

Opening Speech from The Principal of SMA Negeri 8 Jakarta

It is an honor for us to collaborate with SMA Negeri 8 Jakarta, one of the most popular schools with many competent teachers and outstanding students.” Agusman, the principal of SMA Negeri 8 Jakarta encouraged all teachers to take lessons from this camp. “Nowadays technology is shaping more the future of education. As teachers, we should adjust with the development of technology. Finally, let us pray for the success of this camp and that we are inspired to be a better person.”
The participants were then divided into two groups. Aditya Iman, a personal development trainer, led a session on Communication in Work Ethics. Work ethics includes how someone carries out his or her responsibilities and it involves characteristics such as honesty and accountability. The participants were asked to share when they feel excited, proud, satisfied with their work and to define the work values. Andra Hanindyo, a professional trainer, facilitated the session for school staff with the topic Excellent Services. They were given a space to share about their experiences as school staff and talked what needs to be improved at school. The participants discussed ways to provide excellent services to teachers and students in order to improve the quality of education. The responsibilities of school staff have been so vital to support teachers and students in the teaching and learning process.

Afterwards, Nenden Mutiara, from IofC Indonesia, led the session of Inner Reflection. During this session, the participants were introduced to, and guided to have, inner reflection. In the moment of inner reflection, we learn to listen quietly to our inner voice. “Inner reflection plays an essential role in bringing more awareness to practicing gratitude.”

On the second day, we started with morning reflection. Nenden shared about how she lived her life as a mother and the chairperson of Sekolah Rekonsiliasi. “I learnt lots of things from my past. Having inner reflection made me realize there are many things I need to correct from my life. Now I am grateful with my life, having a kind husband, a smart child, and being surrounded by people who support me.” We had a quiet time session and today’s quiet time inputs was: Why do I want to live my life as a teacher or a school staff?. One teacher said, “I have been working at SMA Negeri 8 Jakarta for years and I am grateful to have friendly colleagues and great students.”
In the closing speech, Dinnie H. Firdausi, from GCI appreciated all teachers and staff for their contribution and participation. The participants were encouraged to apply what they learnt during the camp in their school, such as having inner reflection with other colleagues and students at school. We were grateful for the success of the camp and appreciated IofC volunteers for their work, contribution, and cheerfulness.

A school staff shared that he was grateful with his life and thanked God that he could join this program.

“*I will listen to my students to understand more about them and help them to grow.*”

In the closing speech, Dinnie H. Firdausi, from GCI appreciated all teachers and staff for their contribution and participation. The participants were encouraged to apply what they learnt during the camp in their school, such as having inner reflection with other colleagues and students at school. We were grateful for the success of the camp and appreciated IofC volunteers for their work, contribution, and cheerfulness.

*Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom*
Consultation Meeting: Initiatives of Change (IofC) Indonesia

On 3-4 November 2018, the IofC Indonesia team held a Consultation Meeting at Jagat Arsy Boarding School Tangerang. Jagat Arsy, one of IofC Indonesia’s partnerships, is an Islamic World Civilization boarding school located in Tangerang. Fakhrul Rozi, one of the teachers, also a participant of the Asia -
Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) in 2016, gladly welcomed us at Jagat Arsy Boarding School.

We started our day by having morning reflection and the inputs were: What brings you to attend the Consultation Meeting and How can you contribute in this meeting. Nashaat Jihad, our friend from Iraq shared, “I came here to reconnect with my friends after attending the Life Matters Course (LMC) in 2017. I am glad to be here, where I am given a space to share during the IofC talk session.” Nenden, the program coordinator of IofC said “IofC brings enlightenment to my life and to others and it’s a calling for me to be here.”

The next session was IofC Talk in which we invited some speakers to share their life journey within IofC. Irna Yugatswatie, the president of IofC Indonesia, delivered her welcoming remarks and appreciating all speakers who spent times with us here, and also welcoming all participants. Today’s theme was “Change starts with me from personal to global.”

Dhuha Hadiyansyah, a lecturer, shared that through Sekolah Rekonsiliasi (SR), an IofC program, I learned how to deal with self-development, relationship, family, and parenting. “I was inspired to write a book entitled, Falsafah Keluarga telling about family and relationship issues.” Rohmatulloh Amirodtudin, who was a participant of APYC in 2017, shared about her personal change stories. “Being part of IofC by participating with APYC was a great moment for me where I learnt to listen to others. It’s so challenging because I have to listen to people I’m not used to. When joining the Quiet Time session, we were encouraged to listen to our inner voice. It reminded me of a quote saying, “Since God gave man two ears and one mouth, he might as well listen twice as much he speaks.”

Khilda Baiti Rohmah, the founder of Sampahkoe Community, who has facilitated workshops in IofC programs, shared about her life journey. Sampahkoe Community is an environmental community focused on encouraging waste reduction. “I felt grateful to attend the Youth Camp held by IofC Indonesia in 2011. Through IofC, I learnt to reflect upon my journey in life. Khilda commits to help needy people and engages more people to take action in waste management. “I am still in the learning process, and I have much still to learn. I used to think if I hid my wounds I’d feel better but now I realize that being more open make me live happier and become free.” Najah Raniyah, shared about
how IofC impacts her life. “What I learn within IofC is awareness; being aware of myself, the person next to me, and people around me; deep conversation; and learning to be honest and pure. I am thankful for the life process and IofC impacts my life on how I am learning to heal my past.”

Nashaat Jihad, the co-founder and teacher at Hope Learning Center Refugee School, shared how IofC has influenced his life and society and how he deals with the reality of his current status as a refugee in Indonesia. “IofC helps me to develop my friendship and relationship in my community, learn to listen to people and understand them better, keeping an open mind, gaining conflict resolution skills, and learning to make better decisions. I want to bring hope to other people by providing a place where they can learn practical and academic skills. I believe in diversity and learning to help other people without expectation.”

Neas Wanimbo, from Papua, talked about how he understands more about himself. He shared about his relationship with his brother. When he stayed far away from his family, his father became sick and nobody told him. Even after his father passed away, his brother didn’t tell him and he started to blame him. “I used to hate my brother but through my reflection, I realized that I’d been doing wrong. I then wrote a letter to my brother and asked for an apology.” My hope for Papua is developing a library for Hano Wene which I established with my friends. Neas said, “I learn to be the person I want to be and not who others want me to be and to build strong relationships with my family. I also love to make friends from different cultures, languages and countries.”

In the afternoon, the executive members presented the Biannual Report. We shared about the programs and reflected on what happened within these two years. We thanked all friends and donors who support and work together with us.

On the second day, the morning reflection started with, What is my next step after this Consultation Meeting and How do you see your relationship to create inner peace? We were divided into groups and shared our thoughts with other participants.

Dr. Agus Mulyana, the advisor of IofC Indonesia delivered his message on how we learn to respect and appreciate people. “When I come to IofC programs, I feel delighted that I believe we gather here to create peace and harmony.” The core values in IofC could be a guide for us in our life, how we live our lives in sincerity and purity. Afterwards, on behalf of Jagat Arsy Boarding School, Tata, delivered his appreciation to IofC Indonesia and looks forward to having further collaboration with IofC Indonesia.
Wendi Wijarwadi led a session on Open Dialogue for the Future of IofC Indonesia. We were divided into groups based on the years we have known IofC. We were asked to overview the journey of IofC and partnerships. “Networking is one of the most important assets for our life.” After this session, a book in memoriam of Ahmad Fikrie Arief, our friend who just passed away last month, was launched. We felt the loss of Arief, that Ulya Arifah, Arief’s wife and her father expressed their gratitude for the care and support from IofC team.

At the end of the session, we had an appreciation session, where we expressed what the biggest learning in this meeting was and to show our appreciation one to another. Nashat expressed his gratitude to be invited as a speaker and gladly met and reconnected with IofC friends. A touching message from Ulya’s father shared that he just got to know IofC Indonesia and how he could feel how his son in law lived his life within IofC. Another participant said, ‘Being here could recharge my energy, I get many friends to share, and to get inspiration from one another. Thank you for the friendship and togetherness.” We finally ended the meeting with gratefulness and joy. Some thoughts and ideas came up to take real actions in order to create a better world, starting with individual commitment.

Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom

Since God gave man two ears and one mouth, he might as well listen twice as much he speaks.
Community Gathering at Ruang & Tempo

The IoC Indonesia team were invited to join a community gathering held by Tempo Institute, which is one of the media companies in Indonesia. This program was held on Friday, 16 November 2018 attended by people from different communities. The theme was Stop the Spread of Fake News. It was a potluck gathering where the participants contributed different food and beverages to be shared. We came to share and to discuss about fake news which is getting more dangerous. Fake news affects our view of our surroundings, politics, media, national security and our discussions with other people.

Reza Pratama, a creative writer from yukepodotcom, a media entertainment company in Indonesia, said that fake news spread faster than truth does, not only on social medias but also in the family circle. Acep Syaripudin, a digital literacy officer, said that we may apply 3 things to do before sharing news: whether the news is right or not, is it useful or not to share the news, and whether the news is urgent or not.

Irna Yugaswatie, president of IoC Indonesia shared on how we can reflect on the news before spreading it to the public before sharing. Gregy Gustavo from Indonesia Future Leaders (IFL) said that IFL is also concerned about the urgency of fake news so we recently held a gathering on approaching people to share the accurate news. Dahlia Rera, from Tempo Institute, also our IoC friend, shared about how Tempo Institute builds networking with communities which are also concerned with the issue of fake news. “We had a talk show in different cities, interviewed people, and found out that fake news is everywhere and it affects society.” Henni Mulyati, from Masyarakat Anti Fitnah Indonesia (Mafindo), shared about the concern of this organization to engage more people concerned for fake news. “We should critically evaluate the information before spreading the news.”

At the end of the session, each community shared about updated programs and any partnership we can create. It was great to learn and to collaborate with different communities. We also gladly inform everyone that, in collaboration with Tempo Institute, IoC Indonesia, we will start co-working space at Ruang & Tempo.

Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom
Trauma Healing for Palu

An earthquake measuring 7.4 magnitude, followed by a tsunami, hit the west coast of Sulawesi Island, Indonesia, in the northern part, on September 28, 2018. The epicenter was 26 km north of Donggala and 80 km northwest of Palu with a depth of 10 km. The earthquake shocks were felt in Donggala Regency, Palu City, Parigi Moutong Regency, Sigi Regency, Poso Regency, Tolitoli Regency, Mamuju Regency even to Samarinda City, Balikpapan City, and Makassar City. The earthquake triggered a tsunami of up to 5 meters in the city of Palu.

I was given the opportunity by PeaceGeneration to be one of the team assigned to visit Palu to give trauma healing sessions to the victims in refugee camps and volunteers, so that they are able to share the knowledge to the residents in need. The earthquake not only triggered the occurrence of a tsunami, but also liquefaction. The places affected by liquefaction I visited were in Donggala with around 5,000 victims and Petobo with 2,000 victims.

Approximately 60 high school students and university students participated. The session I gave was an Inner Listening session, with sharing in Family Groups and Art Therapy. What the participants said was unexpected; before we thought that they would be traumatized by the disaster that had happened, but one month after the disaster they had recovered faster and were so eager to attend this program in all the sessions.

In the Family Group, they shared about how this disaster left them with tremendous wisdom. Some of them were so traumatized and afraid to see the sea, but most of them were grateful that this disaster gave them and their families learning. Many of them shared that before the earthquake they got less attention from their parents, but after the earthquake their parents gave more attention to the children, some were sad because most of their friends had moved schools and homes and were living in other cities.

On this trip to Palu, I saw how the government was very responsive and quick in handling the recovery process so that people could do their daily activities as soon as possible. From Palu I learned that Indonesian people are indeed very strong. May Palu really rise up and be strong.

Reported by Nenden Vinna Mutiara
Asia Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) Malaysia, 2018

I came to APYC to have a clear vision about my future and to find my calling. I got a lot of insights about how to be a good leader by having values in life. I also felt a deeper connection with myself especially in the quiet time session. There was a time when my past appeared in my quiet time. That made me realize that in order to move forward, I should finish everything that happened in the past.

I had meaningful conversations with many inspiring and amazing people from different backgrounds that helped me overcome my personal problems. Not only they were willing to share their opinions with me, but also they helped and gave me suggestions. As an Indonesian, I had a chance to apologize to my East Timor friend for everything that happened in the past between Indonesia and East Timor. I could see how I have improved since the first APYC I attended in Indonesia in 2016, until this year’s APYC in Malaysia. Being with IofC friends is always my best way to spend time. This is the only time I can be fully myself, without pretending to be anyone else. IofC is my safest place.

Reported by Alifah Djula

This is my second time joining APYC; this IofC program is always able to touch my life differently and bring up new perspectives regarding world development. I decided to participate in this program because I wanted to take a pause in my life, to reflect on things that I have done and to figure out what I will do next. During the program I was amazed how much I feel connected with the people’s stories especially those who shared about their difficulties in life, how they decided to survive and keep their pride alive. Their stories made me realize that there are a lot of beautiful things in my life for which I need to be thankful. I realize that there’s so much love and affection which needs to be shared especially to those whom I value the most, for example, ‘my family’. I never know who will leave this world first, either they or me. Under the theme of ‘Upholding Truth and Accountability’, I learn a lot about leadership; how a leader is not only a person who makes an important decision but also those who follow the right instructions. Leadership is also service to people and to our own selves. I also learnt many attractive things about the power of story sharing that I found during the workshop.

Reported by Najah Raniyah
School Visit and Charity Program

On 9 December 2018 we visited a school called Yayasan Bakti Islami Takwanul Ummah in Karawang. Venny and her spouse, Trian, who are also part of IofC family, warmly welcomed us and felt appreciated, being visited by us. Venny shared about how she and her family decided to move to Karawang, getting out from her comfort zone in Jakarta and being the principal in this school. “I have been living in Karawang for 3 months with my husband and 2 little children. I found I was living my life more spiritually. Being part of Takwanul Ummah not only gives me a space to educate my students but also to encourage them to keep enhancing their skills. Most of the students are children who come from low socio-economic family backgrounds so they lack confidence and have low self-esteem.” Trian expressed his gratitude and said, “Your presence from Jakarta shows the power of love and that love knows no distance.”

IofC Indonesia team, together with Komunitas Bicara Baik, a community with concerns about sharing kindness and love. Irna Yugawatie, the president of IofC Indonesia, led a session on the, ‘What you are grateful for in your life’. The students had a quiet time and then shared their thoughts in pair. One student shared, “I am grateful to have many good friends, stay healthy and being blessed.” Another student said, “I am grateful that I can gather with friends here, stay fit, and have inspiring teachers.” A student shared, “I am grateful to have love from my parents and even more that I can develop myself with consistent prayer habits.”

A talk show, which was facilitated by Komunitas Bicara Baik, talked about How to Achieve Our Dreams. Akhim shared how he achieved his goals to be a lawyer.
“I faced some challenges to reach my dreams and keep my dreams alive. Whatever your dream, be optimistic to pursue your dreams.”

I got insights and ideas from today’s gathering. Some key points from the facilitators are togetherness, friendship, inspiration, spirit and success. We felt so blessed that we had a fruitful day with the students and enhanced our partnership with Komunitas Bicara Baik.

Puspa shared an inspiring story through a puppet performance. The message of the story was to push through obstacles to achieve our goals. Budi Santoso, another speaker, shared his life journey in achieving his dreams. “When I was still a high school student, I used to be very introverted. My ways to improve myself were to learn from my friends, to write my dreams, and to practice speaking in front of a mirror to get over my fear of public speaking.”

At the end of the session, Ustadz Ismail, the owner of the foundation, expressed his gratitude for our visit to Takwanul Ummah. I believe that our togetherness here happens because we have a mutual goal in creating peace. Here are some testimonials from participants: “Today is an inspiring day in that I have been motivated to be a better student. I also appreciate brothers and sisters who gave time to us.” “I learned to be more optimistic and to find out that success can be achieved through process.”

Love knows no distance

- Trian Airlangga
Tempo Media Week 2018

Day 1
Tempo Media Week is back; this year’s event was held at the Tempo office from the 14 – 16 December 2018. The theme was, “Hand in Hand for A Better Digital Society.” The event consisted of exhibitions, inspiring classes, workshops, and seminars. IoF Indonesia participated, together with some communities such as: Kawula Kopi, Komik Anu, Invira (Indonesia Virtual Association), Sahabat ICW (Indonesia Corruption Watch), and Amnesty International.

A session led by Syahrul Azmi was about A Future Fit for the Digital Age. The digital age is something that’s happening right now. In the future, some skills we will need are: analytical thinking and innovation, active learning and learning strategies, creativity, originality and initiation. The question is, “How might we remain relevant for the needs of the future? Are we ready?”

Learning agility is an ability to learn and adapt quickly while applying four foundation skills namely: (1) Growth Mindset. Anything can be developed. What we need is self-awareness and a curiosity to learn; (2) Grit. Everyone needs to be persistent, with energy and tenacity to be successful; (3) Intellectual Agility. People who have flexibility of thinking can solve problems in many different ways. We need to build critical thinking, speed of processing, and flexible processing; (4) Emotional Agility. It is necessary to be well-rounded psychologically and physically. We need to be able to build interpersonal engagement and manage emotions in ourselves and others.
During the exhibition, we fundraised by selling IofC Indonesia T-shirts and hand-made stationery made by students of Takwanul Ummah school. The exhibition became a space for us to share what IofC is, our programs and to build networks with people from various backgrounds.

*Reported by Yofrina Octika Gultom*

Day 2
On the second day a community called *Semua Murid Semua Guru* (#SMSG) presented a program called #KirimBudi which focuses on a movement to support equitable education in Indonesia, especially in the rural areas. This program aims to collect and deliver 10,000 flash disks per unit which requires donations of IDR 100,000 which includes shipping costs to the region. Later, the collected flash disks will be sent to underdeveloped schools throughout Indonesia gradually until the end of 2018.

A *Kopi Aroma Rasa Cerita* workshop was led by #NgopiDiKantor. In the beginning of the workshop, we were informed about various kinds of local Indonesian coffee from more than 10 provinces in Indonesia such as Kopi Gayo (Aceh), Kopi Toraja, and Kopi Flores. We were also informed about the whole process of coffee-making from the hands of coffee farmers until we can drink the coffee from the cups in our favorite coffee shop. The facilitator also taught us how to properly brew coffee with different brewing methods.

Day 3
On the third day, IofC Indonesia in collaboration with Komunitas Bicara Baik facilitated a session called “*Inisiatif Indonesia Bicara Baik*”. This session was led by Irna Yugaswatie from IofC Indonesia and Ardiyamsi Sarmoko from *Komunitas Bicara Baik*. This session encouraged us to appreciate those who love us unconditionally and to accept and to forgive those who hurt us in order to create peace within ourselves. Also, to start speaking nicely and posting something positive, because we create our own happiness and we can share it with others too.

The next session after IofC was called “*Write for Rights*” that was conducted by Amnesty Indonesia. Amnesty Indonesia is a global movement with more than 7 million people who believe that injustice is a personal matter. This number will continue to grow if we strive to create a world where human rights can be enjoyed by everyone.

The last session was led by the well-known travel blogger from Indonesia, Trinity. In this session called *Menulis Catatan Harian Perjalanan*, Trinity showed us how to write an impressively about our travel experiences so that the readers can really feel the journey in the places we visited. We may visit the common tourist attractions, but the key is how we write the story from a different angle so that the readers find our writings helpful and attractive. We enjoyed the sessions and this year’s Tempo Media Week was a successful achievement.

*Reported by Anne Rufaida and Alifah Djula*
Open House Ruang & Tempo

On Thursday, 20th December 2018, IofC participated in a workshop along with other communities/organizations organized by KUMPUL at Tempo Office, South Jakarta. Ardiyamsi Sarmoko (Moko) and Rohmatulloh Amirodtudin (Ami) from IofC Indonesia presented some activities to the participants as follow:

Activity 1: Review what we have done in 2018. Each participant was given 2-3 minutes to write down what they have done and achieved in 2018 and then they were asked to share in the group. One of them shared, “Getting married was one of my achievements in 2018”.

Activity 2: Making a pie graph of our relationships. Participants learned to understand their relationships with their family, friends, partner, co-workers and themselves. All areas are measured by a percentage which would be 100 percent in total. Then they shared their findings in pair. One shared, “I allocated 60% for my family because in 2018 I was committed to myself that my family is my priority, 40% for work and career. My work needs my focus and my presence.”

Activity 3: Then continue to make a relationship map. This map aims to identify the quality of each relationship they have with their family, friends, partner, co-workers and themselves.

Finally, the session was closed by Moko with closing remarks about “Delivering a Good Speech”. We discussed about how to be a good “netizen” in social media (online) and offline as he suggested: no gossiping, no judging, no negativity, or dishonesty.

Reported by Dinnie H. Firdausi
## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Income

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Positive Teachers’ Camp Batch 1-4</td>
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<td>Return Investment from <em>Generasi Cerdas Indonesia</em></td>
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<td>Monthly Donation</td>
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<td>Supporting Outreach Participant</td>
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<td>Saturday Gathering</td>
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<td>IofC Indonesia donate to Refugee Learning Nest</td>
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<td>Moving IofC House</td>
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<tr>
<td>IofC Indonesia Binual Consultation Meeting 2018</td>
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**Total as per 31 December 2018**
FUNDING

This is annual finance report from January to December 2018. The biggest income is from our teachers training which collaboration with CV. Generasi Cerdas Indonesia.

Thank you to all donors,

We gratefully acknowledge all the donors who back our mission and activities financially. To all personal and institution donor. Also huge thanks to all people who gave the money, time, and energy for IofC Indonesia along this year.

**Institution Donors**

- Initiatives of Change Australia
- Initiatives of Change Netherland
- CV Generasi Cerdas Indonesia
- Tempo Institute
- World Civilization Boarding School Jagat ‘Arsy
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Special Thanks to Dinnie Hijrie Firdausi (Nonie) and her mom, Ibu Siti Ambarini Sabardinah (the daughter of Pak Soenarto) who brought IofC to Indonesia in 1956. Dinnie and her mom willingly share their house, the second floor to be used for IofC office since December 2018. The spirit and works of IofC can be nurtured to today’s generation.

Secretariat Address:

Ruang & Tempo
Co-working Space Address:
Tempo Building, Jalan Palmerah Barat 3 No.8, RT.3/RW.5, Grogol Utara, Palmerah, Kota Jakarta Selatan, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta 11480
OUR TEAM

Irna Yugaswatie
President

Yofrina Octika Gultom
Administration

Dinnie H. Firdausi
Finance

Nenden Vinna M.
Program & Partnership

Nur Hayati Syafii
Communication

Samrotul Mufidah
Fundraising

Anne Rufaida
Social Media & Creative
SUPPORT US

BANK MANDIRI
a/n Lembaga Initiatives of Change Indonesia
Account Number: 128-00-0474019-4
Branch: KCP Tangerang Graha Karnos
Swift Code: BMRIIDJA

Bank Address:
Jl. Ir. H. Juanda no.39, Ciputat, Tangerang,
Indonesia 15400

CONTACT US

indonesia@iofc.org

Social Media : @iofc.indonesia

Photos: We thank everyone who contributed by sharing photographs.
Edited by: Yofrina Octika Gultom
Proofread by: Peter Heyes
Designed by: Anne Rufaida
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