

“NgabubuRead”



On May 11, 2019 Sekolah Rekonsiliasi (School of Reconciliation) presented a gathering in our partnership office, Peace Generation, Bandung. The participants came from both Jakarta and Bandung; the theme of the program was “Loving Self”.

It started with introducing ourselves because some of them were meeting for the first time. The participants then had a quiet time, reading books, sharing, and fast breaking. Through this program, they strengthen their friendship and support for each other.

The quiet time inputs were “What are my motives to come here and what I will take back from this gathering.” One participant shared, “I was interested with the theme of the program and loved to learn here. I want to live a happier life. Unexpectedly, in this gathering, we didn’t only talk about how to love ourselves but also it turns out how to give benefit to everyone surrounding me. I learned about self-love and now I can understand my parents more.” Another participant said, “I came with a mental illness and I want to be a better person.

I feel comfortable and feel accepted here.”

During the reading session, each participant read their parts in the book, “Learning to Love Yourself”, by Gay Hendricks, and then we discussed it. We also shared our thoughts, experiences, and problems which are related to the information in the book. They were guided to have a deeper understanding of what we had read. The participants will continue reading, sharing, and discussing further in the near future.

Trust Building Workshop: Love for Indonesia



“Love doesn’t need to be perfect, but love needs to be true. “

Love doesn’t need to be perfect, but love needs to be true. In our simple ways, how do we show love to our country? With the spirit of love, lofC Indonesia presented a workshop with the theme of Trust Building: Love for Indonesia. This program was held on May 25, 2019 at our partnership office, Ruang & Tempo in Jakarta.

The aim was to train and strengthen visionaries in peace building skills and trust building methodologies, to raise awareness of a personal trust narrative, and to develop steps for building trust and leadership in one’s own life.

Miftahul Huda, from lofC Indonesia, started the session with a question “What comes to your mind when you hear the

word ‘trust’?” Some said, trust is about honesty, care, communication, love, faith, and care. A personal reflection with some highlights: “Am I trustworthy?, Do I trust myself, and Do I trust others?” The participants were given times to share their thoughts and listen to others in the group. Trust building is also one of the most important measures in society to create a better country.

Afterwards, Muhammad Ramadhona facilitated a session on, “Love for Indonesia.” In this session, we reflected on what’s happened recently in Indonesia after the presidential election. The highlight is that having a different choice and opinion

is okay and it is about respecting others. The participants were grateful for a well-spent day and some insights about how to build trust with others.

A Visit to lofC Indonesia Senior



“Without having commitment, we may not have depth in what we are doing.”

On May 31, 2019 lofC Indonesia team paid a visit to a senior of lofC Indonesia. Jusni Kusumawardhy Jusuf, a 92 year old lady, has known MRA/lofC since 1959. She, together with her late husband, Kusumawardhy, also known as John, was introduced to this social movement by Kusumawardhy's elder brother, named Soenarto. In truth, one of Soenarto's granddaughters, Nonie was part of lofC Indonesia team. Nonie found that her late grandfather, Soenarto, was part of MRA/lofC after she'd been involved with lofC for years.

Jusni shared her stories on how she got to know the

MRA/lofC. “My husband and I were invited to attend an MRA/lofC conference in the Philippines. As I got the calling, I was involved more with MRA/lofC programs. I decided to take leave for a year from my work as a civil servant, and then we joined outreach programs around the world together with MRA friends from various countries. As a freelancer, it was not hard for my husband to travel abroad. My brother in law, Soenarto worked at the state radio network of Indonesia. It was challenging for him to travel abroad; that's why my husband and I committed to join outreach programs in various countries.”

Jusni and her husband stayed in the USA with other MRA/lofC friends, also travelled to Japan, Caux, India as well; and got connected with MRA/lofC friends there. They were also friends of George Wood, Rob Wood's father from Australia. Jusni said, “MRA/lofC is a way of living. This movement makes me a good Muslim. Having quiet times daily guides me to reflect on my personal life and how I care for others.” She also expressed her gratefulness for our visit. Her message to young team is to keep the commitment in spreading peace and value our lives with the values of purity, honesty, unselfishness, and love.

Japan School Visit Program



Neas Wanimbo felt privileged to be selected as one of the School Visit Program volunteers in Japan this year with the other volunteers Ngoshi from Tibet, Ria from India, and Parwana from Afghanistan. This program was held from 10 May until the 17 June 2019.

During the program, they visited 20 schools from Elementary Schools to universities. The participants presented their countries and introduced the ideas of lofC through skits and personal story sharing; also they had a question and answer session. The program was published in a newspaper and one of the local TV news.

“Staying with a host family was one of the most

unforgettable experiences because it gave me deeper understandings about the Japanese lifestyle and culture. My host family also donated some books and stationery for my library project in Papua.”

“The program helped me to understand the difference between Japan’s and my country’s education systems. I am passionate about the education system in Papua. I believe that what I have learned during this journey will be useful with my library project in Papua. This journey was really meaningful for my future. I thank lofC Indonesia and the lofC Japan team for giving me this opportunity to have an amazing experience.”

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People Craft Program, Crafting A Leader from the lofC Roots



Dahlia Rera felt so grateful to be part of People Craft Program that it helps her to support her personal development and leadership skills. "I can explore who I am, find my direction and my role as an individual, an lofC family member, and also as a professional worker." During this 9-week program, the delegates sharpened their skills, knowledge, and capacity exchange about lofC practices, processes, communication, organization, and program design. This program also increases cross cultural understanding and strengthens the lofC network as they came from different countries; Indonesia, India, and Zimbabwe.

Living in a new environment and learning about how

lofC Australia friends gain their friendships and organizations encouraged her to tackle the many challenges she has. She observed and understood how people are; their belief, assumption, way of living, style, common ethic, while slowly she was able to interact or communicate directly with the people. "To keep on learning is one of the keys in the new environment. I believe there should be one unique value in a culture that I should understand so that I know what they really mean by it."

During her time with lofC Australia, Rera worked with people who run the lofC programs. Rob Wood and David Vincent took her to so many lofC networks that help her to grow. "I got a lot

of insights and inspiration from many people I met. lofC Australia has built a strong root of friendship and trust. I joined the weekly quiet time and the weekly Thursday group meeting before lunch. This gathering has been going on since the 1970s. This weekly gathering taught me about being consistent and having a commitment."

"The other special "gift" was having a personal mentor. The mentor is a safe space to raise concerns, ideas, and to give constructive advice. This is also an opportunity for my personal development."

Towards Inclusive Peace, Global Assembly, and Trustbuilding



Huda and Nenden joined 3 programs: Towards Inclusive Peace (TIP), Global Assembly and Training of Trainer Trust Building in Caux.

Last Year Elliana, one of the Program Director had contacted me if I am interested to be part of the program, then she comes to Asia Plateau India and met my wife, Nenden and Indonesian team. Since then Elliana knew what we were doing in Indonesia with IofC as well as with program of Peacebuilding and Boardgame with Peace Generation. Through communication and coordination, we agreed that we would be coming with Irfan Amalee who is the Executive Director of Peace Generation and he would be

the speaker for the plenary. Unfortunately, he was ill and made him bed rest.

It was a memorable and learning journey personally and professionally as we had a privilege to run a 3-day workshop on Youth for Peace; Preventing Violent Extremism through Boardgame and Country Focus-Indonesia.

In our Focus Country, we had no ideas how to run it, but to prepare and experience it we came to our Indian friends who hosted one day before our schedule, we learn

from our Northeast Indian friends who are committed to bringing peace and reconciliation in their areas.

They shared their personal story that leads to a bigger context of forgiveness and reconciliation among the people in NE India as well as with mainland India. I was so inspired and touched how our Indian friends conduct the session on Focus Country NE India. The day when we need to speak on focus country Indonesia, I presented about Indonesia today, who will be the 5th largest economy in the world by 2030, we are huge country with thousands of islands, with diverse ethnics and cultures and the work that we are doing to build trust between the divided communities, especially between Muslim-Christians.

Interfaith Talk: Build Trust and Break Barriers



lofC Indonesia in collaboration with Jagat Arsy school hosted the Interfaith Talk with the theme “Reading History of Abraham” on Friday, 16th August 2019. This topic is in line with the special time during which Muslims celebrated Eid Adha or Eid Qurban otherwise known as the Festival of Sacrifice. Budi Rahman Hakim, the director of the school welcomed and shared his vision that the school is proud to host this talk “despite the differences among the three religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. A common thread in these religions is the belief in Abraham.

One of the speakers, Imam Ozi Fahrurozi who is a teacher at Jagat school

and participant of the 1000 Abrahamic Circle, visited the US and New Zealand to meet three religious leaders, visited mosques, synagogues and churches as well as having honest conversations as a family. He said, “I felt grateful that I am in this program, I think there are so many misleading concepts and prejudices toward Christians and Jews. In this program I was privileged to meet my fellow Rabbis and Pastors and becoming best friends during the 4 weeks we spent together.

The talk was reflective and challenging as Indonesia has acknowledged 6 religions but not Judaism, even though there are a few followers existing in Indonesia. Rabbi Eliot from

Colorado in the U.S spent one week in Indonesia and shared, “We tend to forget that we have one father Abraham or Ibrahim, yes we fight each other as if we are family, but there is a story that Abraham’s sons were together (Ishaq/ Isaac) with Ismail to bury his father”. The Rabbi also said, “The world needs to know beautiful Indonesia and its diversity; not many people know that Indonesia is a democratic country with the largest Muslim population in the world.” The Indonesian team will carry on to complete the mission to create a new story by building trust, breaking the barriers and maintaining diversity with peace and tolerance.

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