

IAPP and YSP Indonesia inaugurated in the Senate Meeting Hall in Jakarta

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Inaugural conference:

International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, Indonesia Youth and Students for Peace, Indonesia

Preparations for the Inauguration of IAPP Indonesia began one and a half years ago when we met the Vice President of Indonesia and then Speaker of the House and both of them pledged their full support for the event to be held at the House of Representatives in August 2017. However soon afterwards, the Speaker got embroiled in a corruption scandal that dragged out until the beginning of this year. When we were finally ready to launch IAPP Indonesia with the support from the Chairman of the Senate, it was time for the Muslim fasting month followed by the Asian Games and World Bank/IMF Annual Conference held in Indonesia. So the date was finally fixed for Oct. 15, 2018 and it was decided to inaugurate IAPP and YSP Indonesia in the same event under the theme "Dissemination of Five Principles of PANCASILA in Addressing the Critical Challenges of our Time – The Role of Governments, Civil Society, Faith-Based Organizations, Youth and Students."

The Chairman of the Senate Hon. Oesman Sapta, as the co-host together with UPF, would provide the Senate Meeting Hall as the venue. In his capacity as the Vice Chairman of the National Assembly in charge of the dissemination of the 5 Principles of Pancasila, he was also able to provide lunch, snacks, local transportation money, registration kits and participation certificates for 500 participants. UPF was in charge of the mobilization of international and local participants and speakers as well as the program itself.



Usually, people in Jakarta are very busy and it is difficult to motivate them to join a full day program but this time we had to close registrations 10 days before the event and the hall was filled with an attentive

audience from the early morning until late afternoon. The vice rector of a prestigious university confided in us that it was his very first time that he set foot inside the Parliament Building. He was so impressed by the program that he invited our international youth volunteers to his university today and let them introduce the HJ Youth Leadership Training and TIMD to his faculty for further cooperation.

A unique feature of the Inauguration was that the Speakers of both Houses, the Congress and the Senate, were sitting side by side and delivered keynote addresses during the Inaugural Session. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. H. Bambang Soesatyo also hosted the Welcome Banquet for our international guests at the conference hotel the night before. Dr. Tageldin Hamad, Vice President of UPF International, with his warm and heartfelt greetings and our international youth volunteers singing a traditional Indonesian song and a impressive song for peace created close bonds among all participants. When the Speaker concluded the program with his powerful rendition of Frank Sinatra's "I did it my way," the stage was set for the successful inauguration the next day.



Among the 60 foreign delegates at the Inaugural Conference were the Deputy Minister from Sri Lanka, 2 former Cabinet Ministers from Nepal and 8 Members of Parliament from 6 different nations as well as ambassadors and diplomats from 10 foreign missions. Hon. Yasril Ananta Baharuddin, Chair of IAPP Indonesia with the full support from Hon. Dr. Agung Laksono, former Speaker of the House and Adviser of IAPP Indonesia, were able to bring the highest level of Indonesian participants representing the Parliament, Constitutional Court, government, and civil society.



The speakers in all 3 sessions were outstanding. The conference theme on the positive role that the Five Principles of Pancasila, which are very similar to the 5 UPF Principles of Peace, can play in addressing critical issues of our time resonated not only with the Indonesian speakers but also with those from India and Nepal. Hon. A.M. Fachir, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Hon. Rajan Bhattarai, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal on Foreign Affairs, spoke passionately on the theme "Finding Common Ground for Lasting Peace and Security." Hon. Dr. Makarim Wibisono, Vice Chairman, Indonesian Council of World Affairs, suggested that the inclusion of Pancasila in the UN Constitution could invigorate the mission of the UN.

The UPF speakers Dr. Tageldin Hamad, Dr. Chung Sik Yong, Regional Group Chairman of UPF Asia-Pacific and Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, Co-Chair, IAPP Asia-Pacific introduced the vision and work of UPF and IAPP in Asia and around the world whereas the afternoon session focused on the role of youth in nation-building. Dr. Robert Kittel, International President of Youth and Students for Peace powerfully conveyed the message that keeping purity is the first step towards patriotism. He then asked all participants to make a Pledge of Purity and Fidelity. Young MP Hon. Dave Laksono emphasized the importance of youth taking part in the political process while Dr. Venus Agustin, President of the International Peace Leadership College, Philippines outlined the benefits of martial arts in character-building.

Right before the IAPP and YSP Inauguration, Indonesia was struck with a series of unprecedented natural disasters ranging from earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions throughout the country and I was wondering why the country had to pay so much indemnity and what blessing Heavenly Parent was preparing for this nation.



Then during Hoon Dok Hae, Dr. Yong shared his vision for Indonesia: After the great success of holding the IAPP and YSP Inauguration in the most prestigious hall of the Senate with the support from 2 Speakers, we should hold an equally prestigious inauguration for IAPD early next year in preparation of a second Asia Pacific Summit to be held in Indonesia so that this nation can fulfill its providential role as the largest Muslim nation and promote moderate Islam. Though the membership in Indonesia is still small, there is a strong invisible foundation laid by the close association between True Parents and former President Abdurrahman Wahid 20 years ago.

When Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal personally delivered the invitations from the Prime Minister and Speaker of Nepal to the Vice President of Indonesia and both Speakers, they showed great interest in the Asia Pacific Summit in Kathmandu. The Vice President sincerely regretted that he will not be able to join us this time as he has to attend the G20 Meeting in Buenos Aires at the same time. The Senate Chairman is considering taking his private jet to Kathmandu and will be accompanied by a powerful delegation of Indonesian dignitaries.