



# PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC.

MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS - TOOWOOMBA, A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY



## UNESCO International Peace Conference, 14-16 September 2016

November 2016, Issue 58



Three hundred people from different parts of the world gathered at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris to focus on the theme of 'Achieving world Peace and Harmony through Religious Education and Engagement'. The conference was hosted by Pure Land Learning College Association and the Republic of Madagascar.

- Group Photo of the Australian delegates with Venerable Master and H.E. George Mina, the Australia Ambassador to UNESCO -



- H.E. Ny Toky Andriamanjato -



- Presentation by the Toowoomba delegates, chaired by H.E. George Mina, the Australia Ambassador to UNESCO -



- Professor Medwin Hughes -

Addresses were given by the Venerable Master Chin Kung AM, Mr Ny Toky Andriamanjato of Madagascar and Professor Medwin Hughes, Vice Chancellor, University of Wales Trinity St David.

The addresses were supported and amplified by the presentation of individual papers and panel discussions that examined areas such as the challenges of religious diversity, acceptance and engagement; faith contributions to building bonds of humanity; signs of faith; and forging a common humanity through religious engagement and education. One session highlighted Toowoomba as a model city of peace and harmony.

A key element of the various discussions, sessions, and presentations was the need to act in order to make the theme a reality rather than just a good concept. This produced a real commitment by those present to both tell the story of what was said and received at the conference and to promote peace and harmony within their own communities.

As well as the formal sessions there were many opportunities to meet other people who are actively engaged in work within their communities and faith traditions. Meal times were often used to continue discussions that had started earlier in the day. This, along with the time of prayer for world peace, allowed us all to fully engage with the theme as well as growing relationships between people of different cultures and faith traditions. We look forward to gathering again at some future time.

**Reflection contributed by Rev'd Canon Richard Tutin,  
General Secretary, Queensland Churches Together**

The organizing committee wishes to record our sincere gratitude to His Excellency, Ny Toky Andriamanjato of the Republic of Madagascar, for his guidance and leadership for ensuring the success of the peace conference in UNESCO. We look forward to his continuing support in our future forums.

## All for Peace - Toowoomba Standing Together



- Multi-faith prayers captured by USQ Photography -

For a number of years the Pure Land Learning College Association has been helping to promote Toowoomba as a city of peace even on the world stage and now we at USQ are celebrating this fact. As USQ attracts students and staff from all around the world we feel that it is fitting to celebrate the peace we all enjoy in this city. In conjunction with the United Nations International Day of Peace, the USQ Peace Week Celebrations was launched on 4th October with an event that included musical performances, multi-faith prayers and presentations by Dr Rachael Kohn, author and ABC broadcaster, Dr Susan Long, Psychologist, Mr Clem Campbell OAM, State President of United Nations Association of Australia (QLD), and Rev Johnathan Inkpin, Chair of Goodwill Committee of Toowoomba.

The Toowoomba Quad was a hive of activity with stalls, cultural dancing, singing, food and the building of the Wall of Peace. Meditation sessions and walks were held both at Springfield and Toowoomba and the week concluded with a Friendship Morning Tea in the Toowoomba USQ quad where students and staff devoured a giant Peace Cake. The feedback was positive and the feeling is that it should be an annual event.

**Contributed by Evan Riechelt  
USQ Chaplaincy Coordinator**

Check out more photos on mmc.Toowoomba - For upcoming activities and programs, please visit [www.interfaith-harmony.org](http://www.interfaith-harmony.org) - call us at +617 4659 8054, or email us [mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com](mailto:mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com)