

**International Interfaith Youth Workshop Malaysia**

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On 22 June of this year, thirteen Australian delegates from Toowoomba visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend an international peace conference. Among the thirteen delegates, five were from the Toowoomba Youth Peace Group (TYP.G). On 24 June, the TYP.G members attended an international interfaith youth workshop that was organized by ACCIN and facilitated by Mr Farid Hamid.

It was a great privilege to be part of this trip and be exposed to cultures outside of Australia. In the youth workshop, I really enjoyed the ice-breaking session performed by Mr Hamid. This session was a good warm-up, which allowed us to get acquainted with other participants. I had the opportunity to explore and gain insight into different faiths and backgrounds. During one part of this workshop, participants were asked to write any misconceptions they had about any religion noted on the wall. After that, representatives from each religion clarified respectfully any misconceptions that other participants had.

This was a good way of dispelling misunderstandings. As a youth, in future programs I would like to see workshops that focus more on youth and help them in fostering youth empowerment, growth and leadership skills. In this interactive workshop we had the opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas with youth from Malaysia. I hope we have a chance to collaborate with international youth organizations in the future and implement ideas into a project that could benefit youth.

**By Fatemeh Hassani  
 Secretary, TYP.G**



*Above: Shannon Bauwen, Giabul and Jarawoir Traditional Custodian*



*Above: Fatima Aria, President of TYP.G*

**International Interfaith Peace Conference Malaysia**

Australian religious and youth delegates, along with members of the Pure Land Advisory Committee, sponsored by Pure Land and its founder Venerable Master Chin Kung, traveled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Singapore to engage in an interfaith youth workshop and conference, and to visit interfaith groups and various places of worship.

While both the workshop and conference were too brief for deeper dialogue, our time in Malaysia, which can be expanded upon in the future, was valuable in establishing relations with several Muslim groups. In Singapore, visiting places of worship and groups focused on interfaith dialogue was a great encouragement and a source of many ideas for the work of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group.

Some things that stuck out to me during our talk and travel were climate change, Muslim identity post 9/11, interfaith harmony in Singapore and involving those with no religious affiliation. To briefly mention each:

- People of all religions were concerned with and eager for action on climate change.
- It seems that 9/11 was an event that energised Muslim communities to project a strong unified voice of peace and inter-religious harmony. This has led to much engagement in interfaith dialogue.
- Communication between faiths in Singapore was strong and kept religious intolerance to a minimum.
- There is a need to hear from atheists and from those who are not part of a religious institution about matters of life. We must seek to include them in dialogue.



Above: Australian delegates at Harmony Centre and Ba'awlie Mosque, Singapore



Above: Australian delegates visit Sikh temple and IMC Limited, Singapore



Above: Visit to Centre for Interfaith Understanding and a Taoist temple

It was a great privilege to have been invited to take part in this trip. I had a great time learning about Malaysia and Singapore, eating new food and taking in new sights. Our hosts were all extremely generous with their time, and I have nothing but the highest praise for them all. I am sure that this experience will lead to more interfaith efforts in the future and a strengthened program here at home.

*By Dylan Miegel  
Chair of Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG)*

### Upcoming events

The MFMCC is excited to announce the following upcoming programs:

1. The Pure Land Learning College Association is extending their partnership with Heartfulness Institute Australia, Scouts Bunya Club and the Lions Club. Please look forward to our exciting programs to come!
2. Peace Day Event: We are pleased to announce our upcoming Peace Day Event on 1 October at Civic Precinct, Toowoomba. We are inviting special delegates to attend our event. Stay tuned for more upcoming events!