



Empowering Communities through the Culture of Peace

by Frances Carreon/Communications Adv Officer



PEACE EDUCATION

A Journey on Peace together with Peace Educator and Peace Coordinators from different partner-schools of ZABIDA through PAZ.

PAZ NA BARANGGAY

The establishing of partnerships with Barangay Local Government Units in enacting a Culture of Peace in the local communities.

YOUNG PEACE WEAVER AWARDS

Realizing the active involvement of the Youth in forwarding peace as an advocacy and a lifestyle in different communities.

"Throughout the years, we come to see that Peace is not limited to the facet that "Peace is the absence of war," but it also addresses human rights, domestic violence, peace and order.", said Robert N Basco, ZABIDA-Convenio Project Program Coordinator and Peace Advocates Zamboanga Foundation Coordinator as he described the prioritization of Peace Education and Peace-Building initiatives under the Convenio Project. He also added, "We are also addressing different forms of conflict; before, when we talk about Peace and Order, it's only the duty bearers which is the Barangay Local Government Unit, but we now also recognize and acknowledge the role and importance of the different sectors. So now in Convenio 3 from the Convenio 2 experience, we give more highlight and we have deepened the capacity building to our partner-barangays with our sectoral groups. This is because we have seen the inclusive and holistic approach to peacebuilding."

The Peace Component has been implementing activities addressing Interreligious Dialogue through the Interreligious Solidarity for Peace and Order within partner-communities through the Barangay Justice System. "We see that the barangay is the umbrella and there are different foundations, the barangay structures and organizations that need to be empowered so that we can achieve what we call "Peacebuilding and social cohesion." We're no longer limited to peace being an abstract state of mind but now we are actually putting faces. That is why our focus in the convenio 3 is strengthening and capacitating Lupong Tagapamayapa. Because we saw that they are the direct accountable as duty bearers in maintaining peace and order. In line with that we also help them in crafting and mentoring them in formulating their Barangay Peace and Order Public Safety plans as a way of holistic approach to peace:



Peace Education: Diagnostic baseline

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff

Peace Component of Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. under Convenio 3 project supported by Manos Unidas and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) conducted a Diagnostic Baseline to the thirty youth of Kaayuhan Urban Poor Community, twenty one youth of Kinaiyahan Eco-Village, thirteen youth of Kalambuan Housing Community, and youth of Katilingban and Kalinaw Housing Community. This is to prepare the youth in terms of their understanding on the level of trust (Inter-Cultural), Gender, and Environment.

The Diagnostic Baseline was conducted in different batches in their respective communities. Thoroughly planning and conducting of the Baseline study spanned for two months starting from the second week of March to the second week of April.



Photo Courtesy: Riann Tanaza - Communication and Human Rights Advocacy

Deped Courtesy Visit

by Riann P Tanaza/ZABIDA Communications and Human Rights Advocacy Staff

Peace Advocates Zamboanga Staff; Ms. Angeline Pacure & Robert Basco together with Zamboanga Basilan Integrated Development Alliance President Dr. Grace J. Rebollos made a courtesy visit to DepEd - Schools Division of Zamboanga City last March 23, 2021. Present in the meeting were Dr. Gloria Carpio, Peace Education Focal Person, and Dr. Roy C. Tuballa, Schools Division Superintendent.

The Peace team presented the continuing endeavor of the organization in strengthening Peace Education to its partner's Schools and Communities amidst this COVID-19 pandemic.

The conversation allowed the team to understand and pivot its approach and strategies following the protocols of the new normal.

These efforts are under the Convenio 3 project supported by Manos Unidas and AECID.



PAZ NA BRGY: CAPACITY-BUILDING ON THE BRGY JUSTICE SYSTEM

by Darwin Maglangit/Community Peace Initiatives

A 2-Day Capacity-training on Barangay Justice System (BJS) was conducted by the Community Peace Initiatives project component of Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Inc, Convenio 3- Project to two Batches of Partner Barangays. This was done on March 22-23,2021 and March 26-27,2021 at the Grand Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City.

Participants were members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangays Lanzones, Tolosa, Cacao, Tugbungan, Tumaga, Ayala, Malagutay, San Roque, San Jose Gusu, Campo Islam.

These 10 convenio partner barangays underwent an intensive lecture-session, open-forum and mock session on the knowledge governing "Revised Katarungan Pambarangay Law" under RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991. Barangay Justice System is designed to bring about Justice to marginalized people and helps on the speedy

resolution of court dockets through conciliation, mediation and arbitration.

The following sessions that were highlighted during the separate conduct of the 2-day training are; rules and functions of the Lupong, cases that are only under the jurisdiction of the Katarungang Pambarangay, Important Consideration of IP Justice System and re-introduction of KP forms. Also, joined by the open-forum and role-playing/mock session to further deepen the understanding of each context.

All these to help strengthen the Barangay Justice System and advocate for further judicial reforms.

Special thanks to our partners on this journey, Atty. Jose Manuel Mamauag, Engr. George Jocutan and The Department of Interior and Local Government Field Office 09 under the leadership of OIC-Director Ms. Ginagene Vano-Uy.



PAZ NA BRGY: PEACE THROUGH VISUAL ARTS

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff

PAZ na Brgy: Supporting the Urban Poor and Youth Sector of the Kinaiyahan Eco-Village.

On April 9, 2021, a film viewing and painting activity was organized by the Kinaiyahan Youth to the children. The activity addresses the Children's Sectoral Agenda on their Right to Play. This also serves as their wellness activity as the challenge of the pandemic continues affect the most vulnerable sectors of our communities.



Photos by:Angeline
 Pacure/
 Peace Education
 Project Staff

Earth day 2021: Living in Harmony with the Earth

Caring for the environment is among the ways we ensure our overall well-being. A robust environment provides us with vital resources necessary for life. Its careless management and non-conservation, on the other hand, lead to scarcity and the loss of eco-based livelihood.

This drives many vulnerable communities to competitive modes of struggling for food and other resources. Further, the uncontrolled activities of profit seekers in business and industry further exert pressure on the earth's reserves resulting to climate change and other forms of environmental destruction..

To achieve harmonious lives, we must also strive for peace in the context of a well balanced environment. This may be done through marine and upland ecosystem rehabilitation, reducing economic vulnerability by engaging community in planting and conservation of Mangrove and Bamboo and other ecosystems and processing these commodities for value addition, revenue generation and employment creation.

This is at the heart of every Individual who works for the protection of the environment and living in harmony with nature.



A CONVERSATION ON PEACE EDUCATION AMIDST THE PANDEMIC.

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff

Peace Advocates Zamboanga implementing the Peace program of Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. under Convenio 3 project on April 22, 2021 at Philippine Coconut Authority. The participants are the Peace Coordinator from Tulungatung National High School represented by Mr. Elbert Manayon, Sinubong National High School- Ms. Razzel Pedroza, Ramon Enriquez High School- Ms. Armiña Alipon, ZNHS-West- Mr. Noli Tadea and Mr. Jupiter Montero, ZNHS West Rio Hondo Annex- Ms. Mari Mae Rodriguez, Sinunuc National High School- Ms. Amina Aban, Ayala Central School SPED Center- Mr. Jal-Asri Askali, and Ayala National High School- Mr. Hassan Kaniya who facilitated the Checking In: Levelling of Feelings, Thoughts, Expectations of our teachers to pause and reflect on how are they coping with the challenges brought about by the pandemic. In the sharing session, they were able to identify and express their feelings adapting to the new normal but still making sure that they will keep their students motivated to study at home.

The activity aims to re-visit the Peace Education journey for the past two years and present the different peace programs, scheduling and agreed on the different schedule of implementation.

The activity was supported by the Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Roy C. Tuballa. Dr. Gloria Carpio, Division Peace Education Supervisor as she expressed through securing the commitment of the Peace Education Coordinators as they will journey with us in the next 2 more years of the Convenio 3 Project implementation.

This activity is supported by AECID and Manos Unidas under the Convenio 3 Project.

STATEMENT OF THE INTERRELIGIOUS SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN.

Layout by: Robert N Basco



THE CHALLENGE OF RAMADAN, 2021 (1442, AH)

As the new moon announced the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, it is once again time to come in solidarity with our Muslim sisters and brothers.

We recognize that this sacred observance provides guidance toward the right path of submission to the Almighty and to salvation. We take this opportunity to focus on reflection and spiritual growth, the call to forgiveness, patience and resilience, and compassion for those less fortunate, and unity across communities

In practice, Ramadan brings us to moments of fasting to help us develop skills of controlling urges and desires and to bring more sensitivity to the needs of others. Normally at the end of the day, the fast is broken with prayer and a festive meal called an iftar. It is also customary to visit family and friends. Muslims go to the mosque and spend several hours praying. In addition to the five daily prayers that are part of the core of Islam, Muslims recite a special prayer called the Tarawih prayer (night prayer). Special gifts are also given to the poor.

2021, however, is the second year of Ramadan's observance under the extraordinary conditions of the COVID 19 pandemic. As we continue to face the challenges of this crisis, it will be celebrated in a dramatically different mode. We don face masks and face shields, observe hygiene, and stand socially distant while observing health protocols to deal with the virus. Yet we continue to cling to the sacred realization of God's mercy and providence in the practice of this religious tradition.

In our city, we are blessed with Muslim sisters and brothers who stand together with Christian and indigenous communities as one family, firmly rejecting beliefs that divide us as people. We remember those who have been displaced

by conflict and economic instability, taken ill by the virus, some of whom have lost their lives, and all of us who continue to seek alleviation from the suffering of these days.

During this sacred time, let us all be reminded of the lessons of Ramadan - our common obligation to uphold the dignity of each and every human being. In solidarity, we recognize the contributions of our Muslim community to the development of our city, our country, and the world. Let us commit ourselves to peace and justice as we assert our appreciation and respect for Ramadan - this Islamic tradition that reminds us of God's benevolence and likewise challenges us, regardless of religion, to our own commitments, capacities and obligations for benevolence.

- A STATEMENT OF THE INTERRELIGIOUS SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE ZAMBOANGA CITY

PEACE EDUCATION TRAINING: A CONVERSATION FOR CULTURE OF PEACE

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff

Peace Advocates Zamboanga implemented the Peace Education Training: A Conversation for Culture of Peace to the second cluster of Peace Coordinator of Tagasilay National High School- Ms. Jacqueline Biao, Bunguiao National High School- Marilun Pagdanganan, Sangali National High School- Dr. Catherine Felix, Tolosa National High School- Ms. April Juhan, Manicahan National High School- Ms. Gemma Tolentino, Don Pablo Lorenzo Memorial High School- Rev. Emil Aranal, Talon-Talon National High School- represented by Mr. Orestes Morano, Arena Blanco National High School represented by Ms. Peggie Ann Madolara, Pasonanca National High School- Ms. Daisylyn Chuy, Tetuan Central School SPED Center- Ms. Lotes Tolentino, Zamboanga Central School SPED Center- Ms. Ermelinda Enopia, Manicahan Central September 2021

School- Ms. Geraldine Natividad, and Canelar Elementary School- Ms. Ma. Janet Deza on April 23, 2021 at Grand Astoria Hotel.

Atty. Jose Manuel Mamaug, ZABIDA Board of Director shared his learnings and the definition of Peace as a Conflict Manager during his time of service with the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. Hassan Kaniya, Peace Coordinator of Ayala National High School facilitated the Checking In: Levelling of Feelings, Thoughts, Expectations of our teachers to pause and reflect on how are they coping with the challenges in this new normal.

The activity aims to re-visit the Peace Education journey for the past two years and present the different peace programs, scheduling and agreed on the different schedule of implementation.

The activity was supported by the Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Roy C. Tuballa and Dr. Gloria Carpio, Division Peace Education Supervisor.

This activity is supported by AECID and Manos Unidas under the Convenio 3 Project.

PEACE EDUCATION VIRTUAL CONVERSATION

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff



Peace Advocates Zamboanga (PAZ) conducted two batches of Peace Education: Virtual Conversation on May 21 & 25-26, 2021 which was attended by different Peace Coordinators from partner-schools.

The teachers had a conversation on how to continue the Peace Education Program and sustain the Peace Journey amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In the virtual activity, Dr. Grace J Rebollos, ZABIDA President presented the 2019 Diagnostic Baseline Result which will be the basis in the development of an activity matrix for Culture of Peace Training.

This activity was supported by Dr. Gloria Carpio, Division Peace Education Supervisor as she shared that despite the public health challenges we are all facing, DepEd and ZABIDA-Convenio through the Peace Component still continues the program together with the Peace Coordinators.

It was also made possible through the support of AECID and Manos Unidas under the Convenio 3 project.

Solidarity Prayer and Reflection for the Afflicted Persons of Covid-19

by Mona Amilbangsa/ZABIDA Communications Advocacy Staff

In remembrance of colleagues and loved ones who passed due to the worsening situation of Covid-19, a Solidarity Prayer and Reflection was facilitated by the ZABIDA Peace Component and Interreligious Solidarity for Peace (ISP) on May 31, 2021 at the ZABIDA Conference Room.

Sr. Ma. Virginia Benito and Sr. Ma. Valentina Rebollos, OP, of the Dominican Sisters each led prayers for the departed and for the safety of our community during this challenging time of pandemic. Sheikh Mahir Gustaham of the MAHIR Foundation shared his experience as a spiritual frontliner in handling the funeral services for the Muslim community in the ZamBaSulTa region. After sharing, he also led his audience in prayer for the continued protection of the community. With the increasing risk of danger lurking at the foot of our doorstep, they encouraged us to strengthen our faith, adding prayer as one of the safety protocols that we should follow.



This activity was participated by ZABIDA staff following COVID safety standards and simultaneously via ZOOM by partner schools and affiliates. Supported by Manos Unidas and AECID under the Convenio 3 Project organized by the ZABIDA Peace Component as led by Program Coordinator, Mr Robert N Basco together with its project staff Angeline Pacure and Darwin Maglangit.

Solidarity Prayer & Reflection

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Sometimes many people are asking, “Where is the Lord at this time?” the story of Moses where God invites them to the “Promise Land” wherein they have experienced so many difficult things the same thing in this Pandemic, some see the bad things and some see opportunities. Many people have come together in this time where God calls them to help one another, now, we can see the initiative of a “Community Pantry” wherein not only the rich people can donate but also those who have less but willing to share. We cannot only see this in one area only but many people have patterned it and extend it nationwide so that many can be reached.

As I was reflecting and praying the “Oration Imperata” there is one portion there that says, “Restore our hope and strengthen our faith” so as long as we can still pray and we can see many people who are doing good and capable of giving out the best in them, so we see that there is still hope, that God also leads us to that Promise Land.”

Sr. Ma. Virginia Benito, OP
 Dominican Sisters

Solidarity Prayer & Reflection

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Inna Lillahi Wa Inna ilayhi Rajiun

Tunay na tayoy ay mula kay Allah at tunay na tayoy ay babalik sa kanya. In the last year and to this year, I've lost many friends and some family members too. Sa kanilang pagpanaw ang akong panalangin nawa ay makamit nila ang awa at bahag ni Allah, at pagkalooban sila ng mataas na antas sa paraiso.

Rabbunallahu aladhi fissa'ma'e taqadassa ismuka, amruka fissa'ma'e wal ardi kama rahmatuka fissa'ma'e faj-al rahmatuka fili arid waghina hubana wa khata'ya'na rabbuttayibin anji rahmatan min rahmatika wa shifa' an min shifa'eka ala ala dhal waj-e fa yabra

Oh our Lord Allah Who is in Heaven, Holy be Your name, Your will is done in heaven and on earth; as Your mercy is in heaven, bestow it upon the earth. Forgive us of our sins and our wrong ways. You are the Lord of the good. Send down mercy from You and remedy from You to heal upon this pain, so that it is healed up. (Sunan Abi Daud)

Sheikh Mahir Gustaham
 MAHIR Foundation

Solidarity Prayer & Reflection

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Today, as we are celebrating the gains of Peace and solemnity, I ask God - Dear God, you are always a Father, you are always the one who sustain us, You enlighten us to do something good to others. In this time of Pandemic, we entrust our dear ones, our colleagues, our collaborators and all those who work for the common good as we pray for those who have died ahead of us, those Frontliners who are heroes and those who are still fighting for life, we pray that we sustain our hope, be always on fortitude that gives us spirit that we may be able to surmount over all these obstacles to find you along the way.

We pray that our common goal and efforts are unifying elements in coming together will always be a dialogue with you and to others, Grant us Father the essence of being one with others for we are always interconnected, make us aware of our responsibilities and grant us the spirit of generosity in all that we do, all these we asked in the same God, the Father of All. Amen.”

Sr. Ma. Valentina Rebollon, OP
 Dominican Sisters

ONLINE COMMUNITY LEARNING SESSION

by Darwin Maglangit/Community-Based Peace Initiatives Project Staff



Barangay Justice System The DILG, through the (BJS) role as mandated by Economic and Incentives the law in the virtue of RA Awards Program, is tasked 7160, otherwise known as to provide incentives the Local Government awards to the performing Code of 1991, is designed to and outstanding Lupong fast track resolution of Tagapamayapa at the issues and concerns in the Regional and National community. Amidst this Levels.

global pandemic, their role, even more, became vital. Thus, providing them the opportunity to foster their skills in Conflict Resolution is an effective way to bring themselves conscientiously.

Last May 27, 2021, The Peace Conversation and Learning Session; participants were Basilan Integrated NGOs and Academes, Development Alliance, Inc. namely; WMSU, IRDT, and (ZABIDA) with DILG ADZU. Discussions on initiated an Online interventions of each Community Learning institution were the Session, and it was highlight of the meeting; participated by the following this is to uniform Convenio partner barangays, approaches to strengthen to wit; Ayala, Malagutay, the Barangay Justice System Campo Islam, San Roque, in Zamboanga City. On the Tugbungan, Tumaga.

The activity provided the platform for mutual understanding of the gaps and responsibilities among partners and concerned BLGUs. The affirmation of some Lupon members Manos Unidas and AECID from the presentation of supported this activity the DILG on the result of through the Convenio 3 the 2019-2020 LTIA Project implemented under ZABIDA.



GREGORIAN-HIJRAH CALENDAR: OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

by Darwin Maglangit/Community-Based Peace Initiatives Project Staff

One of the advocacies of Interreligious Solidarity for Peace (ISP) is to strengthen the Muslim-Christian relationship to promote Peace-Building and Social Cohesion and one of the highlights of every years' engagement of the ISP is the Publication of the Gregorian-Hijrah Calendar. Over the course of 14 years, ISP popularized the said Calendar and to this date, the calendar remains as the branding of the ISP. This year, the two committees: Technical (Drafting) and Review Committees were already in their journey of finalizing the 2022 calendar.

Also, earlier this year, after a series of meetings conducted for the drafting and thorough reviews by the two committees, they moved now in the Oversight committee wherein the stage of finalizing and enhancing the calendar. The Oversight activity was spearheaded

by the Committee chair, Mr. Robert Basco, Program Coordinator of Peace Advocates Zamboanga and its members, to wit: Prof. Ali T. Yacub, Al-Hj, Shiekh Abduwakil Kasim, UCZP, Darwiza Jamsani, Secretary to Sheikh Kasim, Mr. Jaafar Kimpa, Jabu-Jabu,, Ar. Nelvert Anino, Lay out Artist,, Albert G. Francisco, Support Staff Secretariat, Ms. Almaly Dinampo, Admin Support Staff.

The enhancement on the Technicalities were made and suggestions were taken full consideration by the committee to further develop the said calendar — The oversight role was to finalize the calendar to be presented to the Lead Convener for his approval. Manos Unidas and AECID supported this activity thru Convenio 3 Project implemented under Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. (ZABIDA)

PEACE EDUCATION- CULTURE OF PEACE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff

A two-day workshop on Culture of Peace Training for teachers from partner-schools was virtually conducted on June 16-17, 2021 by the ZABIDA Convenio 3 Peace Component via ZOOM.

The first session on Cultivating Inner Peace was facilitated by Mr. Aldrin Bucoy Abdurahim, Founder and President of Action Bridges Aspiration.



The second Session of Peace Education-Culture of Peace Training for Teachers: Inter-Gender in Peace Education was facilitated by Prof. Rosalyn Romo-Echem, Philippine Commission on Women Zamboanga Chapter Representative. Session 3: Peace and Environment was facilitated by Mr. Moncini Hinay, President of Kids Who Farm. As part of the workshop of Culture of Peace Training for Teachers, Ms. Esperencita Hupida, Executive Director of ZABIDA shared the Six Domains of Resiliency to the Peace Education Coordinators.

This activity is supported by Manos Unidas and Aecid through Convenio 3 Project implemented by Peace Component under Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. We acknowledge the support of the following individuals who have made this activity possible: Dr. Roy Tuballa, Schools Division Superintended, Dr. Gloria Carpio, Peace Education Supervisor, Dr. Grace Rebollos, ZABIDA President, Ms. Esperencita Hupida, ZABIDA Executive Director.



2021 YOUNG PEACE WEAVER AWARD FINALISTS



2021 YOUNG PEACE WEAVER AWARD FINALISTS

Layout by: Robert N Basco

YOUNG PEACE WEAVERS AWARD 2021: INTERVIEW, DELIBERATION, SHORT LIST-FINALISTS

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff

The First and Second Batch of applicants for the Phase III of Young Peace Weavers Award 2021 underwent Interview and Deliberation with the following Panel of Interviewers: Prof. Ali T. Yacub, Al-HJ-Muslim Convener of Interreligious Solidarity for Peace, Dr. Rufina Cruz- Interreligious Solidarity for Peace Member, Hja. Sarah Handang- Department of Education and Peace Weaver 2016, Engr. Aldrin Bucoy Abdurahim- Young Peace Weaver 2007 and President of Action Bridges Aspirations, Sr. Virginia Benito- Dominican Sisters, Mr. Avelino Sulit- Interreligious Solidarity for Peace Member. This was done through a blended methods of virtual and face

to face following the IATF health protocol, during the last week of June until the first week of July. Out of the thirty-four applicants of senior high schools students from Public and Private Schools, twenty-two students made it through the final validation to move to the next level as Young Peacebuilders. Twenty-two graduating Senior High School Students have shown dedication in their chosen field of peace advocacies; gender equality, environmental protection, education. They will now proceed to the final validation through a series of capacity building and challenges before receiving the medallion and recognition as Young Peace

of 2021. This year's search for YPW 2021 will not be possible without the following: Dr. Roy Tuballa, Asst Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Gloria Carpio, Peace Education Focal Person, Dr. Grace Rebollo, ZABIDA President Interreligious Solidarity For Peace, Ms. Esperencia Hupida - Executive Director of ZABIDA, Young Peace Weaver Alumni: Ms. Amina Shayne Halil, Ms. Aurell Lim, Mr. Jorel Ramos. This activity is supported by Manos Unidas and Aecid through Convenio 3 Project implemented by Peace Component under Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc.

RENEWING THE CALL OF INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY FOR SOLIDARITY IN A PANDEMIC ISP EIDL ADHA 2021

As we continue to face the challenges of COVID-19, another religious event approaches that, since last year, has been observed in a restricted yet meaningful mode. We don face masks, observe hygiene, and stand socially distant while observing health protocols to deal with the virus. This time, new developments have emerged from new variants indicating the need for more precaution and faith in the protection of our God. Yet we continue to cling to the sacred realization of God's mercy and providence and submit to divine will in the observance of Eid-ul-Adha.

Eid-ul-Adha falls on the tenth day in the final (twelfth) month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar; Dhu-al-Hijjah. It follows the completion of the annual Holy Pilgrimage of Hajj - one of the important Five Pillars of Islam which is an obligation for all Muslims in accordance with certain criteria. Thus, this celebration has also been officially declared a national holiday on 20 July 2021, per Presidential Proclamation 1189, s. 2021.

This day commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's devotion to Allah SWT and his readiness to sacrifice his son, Ismail. At the very point of sacrifice, Allah SWT replied Ismail with a ram, which was to be slaughtered in place of his son. This command from Allah SWT was a test of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness and commitment to obey his Lord's command without question. Thus, Eid-ul-Adha is referred to as the Festival of Sacrifice - Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice. The Prophet is among the earliest points of unity of three faith traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. These are referred to as the Abrahamic faiths in his honor.

In this time of the COVID pandemic, and with the emergence of more potent virus variants, let us celebrate Eid-ul-Adha with the spirit of sacrifice manifesting its deeper exhortation of human unity, freedom, kindness, and faith that God's mercy will see us through the hardships of the time. In solidarity, it is important to remind ourselves that everything occurs by the will and divine wisdom of God. Let us seek the help of God through constant invocations with the language of love and servanthood. We shall remain united and protect one another by being socially responsible.

We pray...

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ
Your Lord has proclaimed, "Call upon Me, I will respond to you"
(Surah Ghafir, 40:60)

Whoever among you suffers some sickness, or his brother suffers some sickness, let him say: 'Our Lord Allah Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your will is done in heaven and on earth; as Your mercy is in heaven, bestow it upon the earth. Forgive us of our sins. You are the Lord of the good. Send down some Your mercy and healing upon this path, and he will be healed.'

(Hadith by Imam Abu Daud)

May the Almighty protect us and our loved ones from harmful diseases and all other adversities. Amen.

The Interreligious Solidarity for Peace 7/2021



ISP: EID'L ADHA 2021 Solidarity Reflection

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education P.S.

In observance of Eid'l Adha 2021, the Interreligious Solidarity for Peace made possible a virtual celebration of the Feast of Sacrifice of our brothers and sisters in Islamic faith on July 21, 2021 via Zoom. Promoting solidarity and empowerment to interreligious group members, they have invited sharers to help and reflect on the significance of celebrating such symbolic date. Sheikh Mohammad Salman Sakili, a member of Ulama Council, imparted the religious and historical background of Eid'l Adha and why it is celebrated. Rev. Rogelio "Buddy" F. Alfaro, Jr an Interreligious Solidarity Member and Vice Chairman of Amores Interfaith Community Alliance Evangelical Church, shared some reflections on the observance of the Feast of Sacrifice as a person of faith and Dr. Rufina A. Cruz, BOT Member of Peace Advocates Zamboanga and Vice President of Reach Out to Others Foundation, shared some lessons to be reflected from the experience of Abraham that can be applied during this time of pandemic. This solidarity and reflection was closed by reading the Solidarity Statement of Interreligious Solidarity for Peace as a renewed call for Solidarity of the Interreligious Community in time of COVID-19.

Layout by: Robert N Basco

September 2021

Page 9

COMMUNITY LEARNING SESSION: MENTORING AND COACHING ON BARANGAY JUSTICE SYSTEM

by Darwin Maglangit/Community Peace Initiatives Staff

A four-day Mentoring and Coaching Session to Lupon members and Purok leaders of Barangay Lanzones and Tolosa was conducted on July 21-24, 2021 at the Covered Court, Barangay Lanzones, Zamboanga City. This was facilitated by the Peace Team Headed by the Program Coordinator, Mr. Robert N. Basco together with his team, Mr. Darwin Maglangit, Ms. Almaly Dinampo, and Khasmier Atiolla.

Each day focused on important learning aspects for the Lupon members to function effectively to serve their

community and to enhance systems in their organizing as a step up from mere compliance to their mandate. On the first day they learned the Basic Orientation on their roles and functions as Lupon and Guidelines governing KP process as facilitated by Atty. Jose Manuel Mamauag. Also, the relearning: learning of the Culture of Peace (COP) — integration of the Six petals of peace one of which is targeting on the cultivation of the inner peace thru Mental Health and Wellness Session, their conscious role in keeping peace and order in their community.



Day 2 focused on effective analyzing conflict in their ways in resolving disputes community, Presentation of in the community level thru the 2 barangays on their Alternative Dispute Baranagy Peace and Order Resolution session as Public Safety Plan (BPOPS); facilitated by Mr. Vandrazel DRRM/ENVI Coordinator Birowa. Day 3 was a Ms. Chariza Gregorio also combination of mock presented the importance of session, role-playing and the Family Preparedness lecture forum – enactment plan and it's integration to of their process in settling the the BPOPS Plan. disputes within their This mentoring and community. In the coaching was supported by culmination day, the team AECID thru Manos Unidas were able to formulate and under Convenio 3 project as design Assessment tool in implemented by ZABIDA.



MWOP 2021 by Khasmier Atiolla MWOP Support Staff

Mindanao Week of Peace 2021 is fast approaching - a month-long celebration. Despite the many challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. (ZABIDA), together with the Peace component team and other Convenio Project team, including the Katilingban Sa Kalambuan, Inc., conducted a Strategic Planning last August 4, 2021 at the ZABIDA Conference Room.

The session was facilitated by Engr. Aldrin Bucoy Abdurahim with the theme "Finding our path for Peace in the Face of the New Normal and the

celebration of the MWOP 2021". ZABIDA President, Dr. Grace Jimeno-Rebollos was there to witness and share history of the MWOP celebration, while, ZABIDA Executive Director Ms. Esperancita Hupida shared the project's vision in the celebration. Project Coordinator-PEACE Component, Mr. Robert N. Basco emphasized the importance and main objectives of the activity.

The Convenio Project teams were given tasks that encouraged sharing and respect for ideas in order to come up with possible MWOP 2021 activities. This Strategic Planning used the "Art of Hosting" method which established collectiveness and sense of ownership for every activity that was proposed.

This activity is the first step towards the #JourneyForPeace in the MWOP 2021 celebration. Organized by the ZABIDA-Convenio Peace Component team together with Project Staff Mr. Darwin Maglangit, Ms. Angeline Pacure and Ms. Almaly Dinampo. Supported by AECID and Manos Unidas under the Convenio Project.



PEACE EDUCATION: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

by Angeline Pacure/Peace Education Project Staff

Peace Advocates all shared their Zamboanga conducted experience and a four-day Workshop II knowledge on the of Peace ed fellowship different themes, Training to the twenty- theories and aspects of seven Peace Education peace: Hja. Sarah Coordinators coming Handang, Senior from different partner- Education Program schools.

Engr. Aldrin Bucoy Rebollos, ZABIDA Abdurahim facilitated the said activity on Re- President, Peace Weaver Learning; Learning- Awardees Dr. Socorro Peace Ed Fellow Canaya (2011), Prof. Journey. This session is an avenue for the Noor Saada (2017), and Ms. Jennifer Cawaling (2019).

This activity was supported by Dr. Roy Tuballa, Schools Division Superintendent and Dr. Gloria Carpio, Division Peace Education Focal Person. Supported by AECID and Manos Unidas under the Convenio 3 project.

Interreligious Solidarity for Peace Executive Committee Meeting

by Darwin Maglangit/
Community-Based
Peace Initiatives P. S.

ISP sees importance in sustaining the Interreligious dialogue among its members especially so during these challenging times. Thus, ISP EXECOMM members caucused to discuss the many challenges brought by this Pandemic. These challenges are anchored to the agenda discussed in the meeting: Kumustahan among its members and recalling of the previous agenda re restructuring of the ISP org and strengthening of its membership.

The first agenda provided opportunity for the group to get to hear and grasps personal experiences of each member especially in the context of the new now. Secondly, the group discussed issue confronting the organization itself, resulting to a resolution of re-structuring and strengthening the membership of the ISP. One highlight was the motion to select co-convenor among the members who will be the second-liner of the 4 existing conveners of the ISP; Christian, Muslim, Evangelical and Indigenous Peoples. The convenor now will serve as the ISP Council of Leaders and the creation of the co-convenor shall be in the trust and confidence of the members especially to the ISPCL who will be working with whoever will be selected to carry out advocacy of the ISP.

One highlight therein was the relevance of interconnectedness of people regardless of faith in the spirit of oneness towards harmonious and peaceful coexistence and how looking into the ROADMAP of the ISP how can they collectively work in addressing the many challenges as made mentioned above.

The said meeting took place at ZABIDA Conference Room, ZABIDA Office Macrohon Compound, Suterville San Jose Gusu, this City and participated by some selected ISP ExeComm members.

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Capacity building-Putting in place a structure- Putting in place the people. It started that way in PAZ, make peace as a way of life rather than forcing peace and order on the people. So based on history, we could say that this (Convenio 3 activities/programs) is not new anymore but these are the continuing efforts of PAZ in helping the community achieve the Culture of Peace rather than the Culture of Violence.", Basco emphasized.

Other than this, Peace Education Capacity-Building activities together with the Department of Education Division Office IX are implemented to incorporate the Culture of Peace within the Youth Sector. Basco shared that "it started with 5 schools. Before, we had no catchbase in the schools, the academe partnership were limited to just interreligious, interfaith dialogues. And our educational mechanism was mainly the Mindanao Week of Peace where we inform the public regarding the Culture of Peace. But now, were are trying to see how to furthermore and mainstream COP and we recognize that there is really no other way but to educate our people and that is through our Educators, the teachers. We can see the long-term of continuing education on COP. That is why in PeaceEd our focus is on three levels: Institutional, Teachers, Students. Part of our interventions is providing technical assistance and logistical support.

Under technical assistance are the Culture of Peace Training,

Leadership Development, How to handle conflict.. Peace Education started in Convenio 1 with 5 schools, 36 in Convenio 2 an continuing now in Convenio 3 with 25 schools with modifications applied from findings on the Diagnostic Baseline study."

Due to the pandemic, however, the team was challenged to modify activity implementation while ensuring quality service. "The pandemic gave more highlight to the necessity of the six paths to peace. Everyone was seeking for mental health and wellness, so the more need to focus and to advocate for peace... We also recognize the different forms of conflicts caused by the pandemic that are addressed through our interventions, one of these being the Pause and Reflect sessions with the barangays. ", Basco said. But this did not waver the committment and dedication of the team to pursue Peace-Building. When asked about the ways forward of the team, Basco highlighted that, "We are now gathering strengths from our partners and stakeholders. Peace is not a solo job but a collective effort for everyone. The role of peace team is to provide platforms and mechanisms on how do we connect with other stakeholders and to look at other points of convergence. In this pandemic, we are harvesting, we are celebrating the partners that we have for the last many years who have been with us through the many challenges."

ZABIDA is a Consortium of four (4) Non-Government Organizations, namely: Peace Advocates Zamboanga Foundation, Inc., Katilingban sa Kalambuan, Inc., Reach Out to Others Foundation, and Nagdilaab Foundation that are implementing programs in Zamboanga City and some municipalities in Basilan.



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