



All Religions Conference

at

Manujothi Ashram, Sathianagaram, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu

On: 19th July 2012

IARF leaders were invited to join 43rd Kalki Jayanthi Celebrations of Manujothi Ashram, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu, as a fellowship day of world religions to promote universal brotherhood and unity of India. Manujothi Ashram was founded by Lord Lahari Krishna as a place for worship, live and meditates together. They read Holy Scriptures of different religions every day. Chanting and yoga are part of the Ashram life. Live with simple food, work in the field and eat together are the important part of Ashram life there. 150 families from different religious background live in Ashram. Besides thousands of devotees from different parts of India and abroad visit the Ashram in various occasions.

Mr. M. Subramaniam, IARF SACC vice chairman has been a good friend of Ashram founder and continues the same fervor till today. Due to his influence every year one day is celebrated as World Religions Day with a program entitle "All Religions Conference". This year the conference was held on 19th July 2012 from 5:00pm to 9:00 pm. The program was presided over by Mr. M. Subramaniam. Representatives of various religions and civil bodies were represented. IARF leaders, Dr. Thomas Mathew (Chairman, IARF SACC), Adv. Shabeer Ahmed (IC Member, IARF), Adv. Mrs. M.A. Hemalatha (IARF India President), Adv. B.T. Chidambaram (IARF India Treasurer), local IARF member group and branch leaders also were presented .Besides Dr. V.G. Santhosam (President, VGP Group, Chennai), Adv. Mr. Meenakshi Sundaram (High Court Advocate and President of Hindu College, Tirunelveli), Mrs. Dr. Ulaganayagi Palini (Stella Marys College, Chennai), Haji Dr. M. Ahmed Khan, Dr. Dhakshinamurthi, Dr. S. Raveendhiran, Justice M. Sekar, Chennai etc were presented.

Around 1500 people from Hindu, Christian, Islam and Buddhist religions were presented. Speakers highlighted the importance of the unity of religions not only for the development of India, but also for the world peace. Religion is a driving force for the unity of mankind, but it can also be disintegrator, if wrongly interpreted. In different ages of history, humanity has passed through this struggle. Different religions believing that, down through the years God has sent prophets and even incarnated by himself to save the humanity from the disasters. Faiths and traditions of all religions had been challenged always. However, God's presence, through prophets and messengers were corrected or solved. Dr. V.G. Santhosam, in his speech mentioned the story of Adam from Bible, "Adam was trying to keep away from God, though he knows him personally". Covering his/her sin is the habit of human being from the very beginning. In fact, most of the speakers, shared about their own faith, and how they see God through religion. Everybody applauded the spirit of inter religious community living inside the Ashram and the way they serve local people and orphans.

IARF principles have been rightly introduced and practicing in the Ashram by devotees. Some of the IARF members are also devotees of the Ashram and follow their faith tradition. Meeting provided a great opportunity for IARF leaders to present our organization and its mission. Mr. D. Paul Uphaz N. Lawrie, the present leader of Ashram had attended IARF's World Congress at Kochi and been moved by galaxy of religious leaders gathered there with a mission of religious freedom and unity.

Photos of Gathering





Get together of IARF leaders at Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu

IARF leaders were gathered at the home of Adv. B. T. Chidambaram, under the banner of IARF Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu branch and discussed about the forthcoming India Chapter Conference along with the RFYN meeting at Adichunchanagiri Mutt, Mysore in October.

SACC Chairman presented the detailed schedule of Hiroshima Survivor Mr. Hiroo Iso from August 1-10, 2012 across India, especially in five metro cities. Chairman also facilitated Adv. B.T. Chidambaram for his second term as the general secretary of the grand old Hindu College Educational Society, the first college in Tirunelveli, being founded 150 years before.

We are Thankful to Mr. M. Subramaniam and Tirunelveli branch of IARF India to coordinate the inter-religious program at Manujothi Ashram.



Figure 1 Get together of IARF leaders at Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu