



Angelo Province

REPORT



international association for
religious freedom
belief with integrity



International Youth Conference



**“Discover the Treasures of
PEACE and HARMONY”**

**On
24- 28, Sep. 2012**

**Venue:
Nobili Pastoral Centre,
K.Puthur, Madurai -7, Tamilnadu, India**

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2012 (IYC 2012)

The International Youth Conference 2012 (IYC 2012), was organized by the **International Association of Religious Freedom**, London, in association with the **Angelo Province** of the Institute of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, India.

The IARF is engaged in various development programs for the welfare of the society. After working for years in the promotion of human rights, interfaith understanding, and peace activities, the need was felt to create awareness of Human Rights and Peace among the masses. To satisfy this requirement, an International Youth Conference is organized at Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India. This conference is evolved to support the college-going youth in forums that encourage leadership, emphasize self-help models of learning, and promote peace that will catalyze long-term sustainable action from the grassroots level. This program enables youth to gain awareness of their rights through body knowledge, legal literacy workshops, and life skills training. With an emphasis on developing leadership skills, the forums open a space for youth on the brink as leaders to articulate their hopes and fears, assert their own identity, and claim their individual space - to step out into the world with confidence.



OBJECTIVE

“Strengthening young adults and encouraging them to promote peace and harmony in areas such as: culture, education, health, human rights, environment, social and economic development, through International Young Adult Conference.”

THEME

“Discover the Treasures of PEACE and HARMONY” was the theme for this conference. Peace and harmony are hidden in the heart of everyone, but we are unaware of this. This conference had aid the young adults to discover the peace and harmony hidden within them.

DATE: 24 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2012

VENUE: Nobili Pastoral Centre, K. Puthur, Madurai, Tamilnadu, INDIA

IMPORTANT MODUELS...

- ✦ Discovering the treasures of peace and harmony.
- ✦ Exploring human rights.
- ✦ Understanding ways and means to promote peace.
- ✦ Fostering global understanding.
- ✦ Learning about the works of the UN.
- ✦ Planning effective action & sharing experiences.

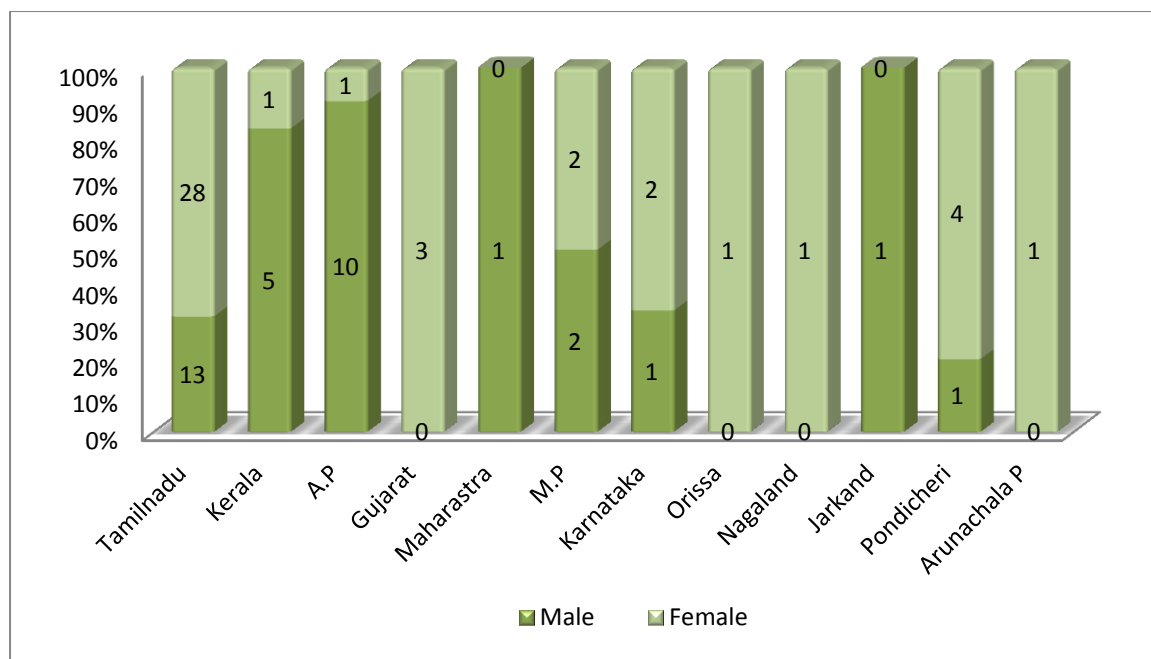
CONFERENCE OUT COME...

- ✦ To bring peace and harmony to the individuals as well as to the society
- ✦ Re-examine the ultimate goal and purpose of life, including the economic well-being
- ✦ Instead of thinking financial recovery, to make them to think moral recovery first
- ✦ To practice compassion, sharing and caring
- ✦ To learn and apply genuine acceptance of other people's opinions to bring peace.
- ✦ Understanding of real meaning of Human Rights and applying this in life.
- ✦ Practicing UDHR in day-to-day life..

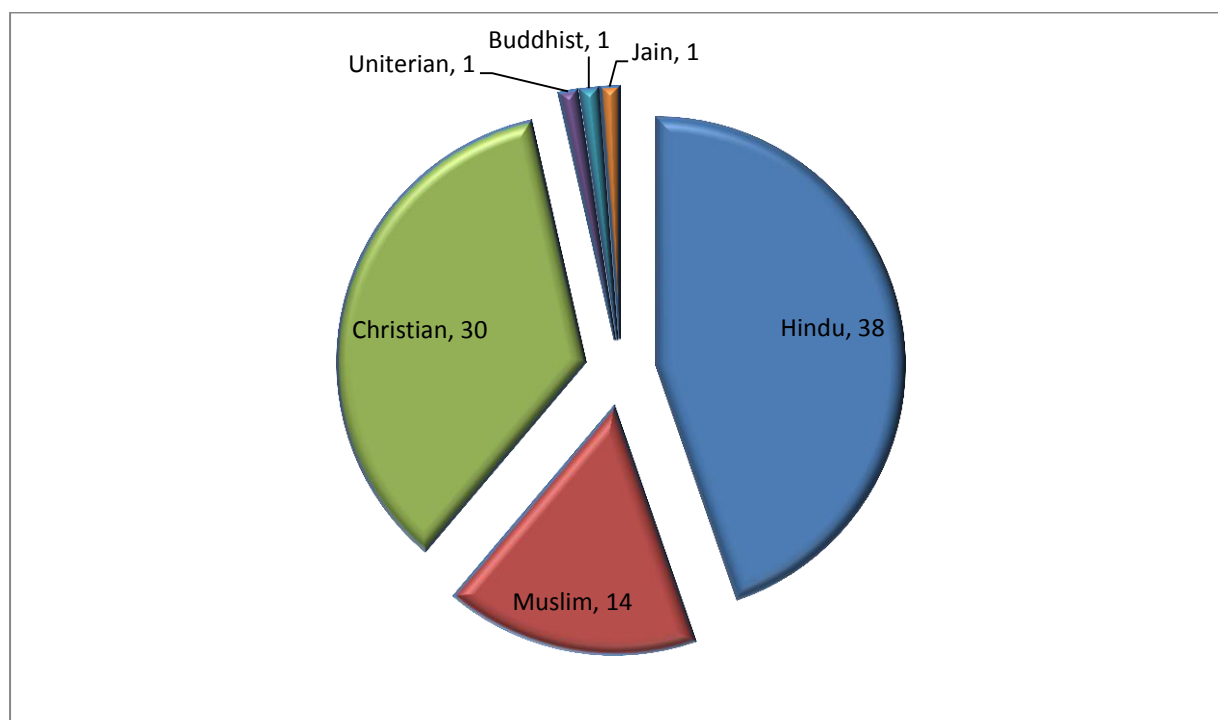
PARTICIPANTS

This conference was exclusively for the young adults (Graduate Students), who really want to bring peace and harmony to the society of today. The medium of communication was English. The conference included 85 participants from different faiths. The young adults from all over India and some from other countries participated in the conference (Statistics given below...).





S. No	Country	Male	Female
1.	India	34	49
2.	Tansania		1
3.	Tibet		1



REGISTRATION

There was no registration fees charged for this value oriented conference. The main priority of this conference was to make the young adults to understand the real meaning of peace and harmony, and inculcate the same in them to spring into action.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Day one (24th Sep 2012)

Inaugural Celebration:- The inaugural celebration was started with Invocation Prayer by three young adults from three different faiths.

With the blessings of Almighty, the dignitaries lit the lamp followed by Br. Albert Xaviour's welcome address.



Special Invitees

- ✦ Dr. Gnanavaram, (Principal, Tamilnadu Theology College, Madurai)
- ✦ Sri. Seetha Devi (Brahma Kumari, Madurai)
- ✦ Mr. Vijayaragavan (Secretary, Mannar College, Madurai)
- ✦ Dr. Homi Dhalla (IC Member, IARF, Mumbai)
- ✦ Dr. Mrs. Kalyani Mathivanan, (Vice Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai)
- ✦ Rev. Br. Edward Francis SHJ, (Provincial Superior of the Angelo Province)

Dr. Homi B. Dhalla's "Many Faces of Peace" Tamil version was released during the inaugural celebration. Rev. Br. Edward Francis received the first copy of the Tamil Version.



Motivating Messages:

The motivating message by Rev. Mitsuo Miyake, the President of IARF, was read during the Inaugural Celebration. The message was very inspiring and encouraging for the young adults to participate with full enthusiasm.

The Secretary and treasurer, of IARF, Rev. Jeffrey Teagle also sent his wishes and inspiring thought for the conference, which was read during inaugural celebration.



Silence Speaks Art Exhibition

An art exhibition inspired by the theme peace and harmony was exhibited in the venue, the theme provoked Mr. Nishad, a deaf person, to paint his hidden treasures of peace and harmony. Some of his paintings were gifted to the dignitaries.



Ice-Breaking Session

Session One: “The History of IARF and its objectives and Goals” Bro. Albert Xaviour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHreSfi9Ayk>



Session Two: The PPT presentation by Rev. Br. Edward Francis SHJ on “Dialogue and peace activities of the Province” was presented. This helped the participants to know how they can introduce peace activities at individual level. The participants interrogated Bro. Edward and received clear picture about the topic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4G6pOXTKdw>

Session Three: Challenges of young adults in today’s competitive world by Br. P. Jayaraj, Secretary, Sacred Heart Arts and Science College, Dindugal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26H2tPYsilg>

Open Discussion:- “Peace activities by Youth” by Rev. Sr. Fathima, Ex Principal of the Fathima College, Madurai.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGYif7wvk4Y>



Recreation :- After the dinner the participants were joined together for recreation, which was organised by Bro. Sunil and Bro. Britto. Interesting games and activities by the Brothers made participants to refresh themselves and involve more actively in the conference.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54nKNUZ2j3o>



Day Two (25th Sep 2012)

The second day was begun with yoga by Mr. Deepak Aravind, who is the professional yoga trainer trained by 'Art of Living'. Before the session, the first day evaluation was taken by Bro. Albert Xaviour.

Session Four: "Cultivating Creativity for Peace Activities" by Dr. Jayapragasam, who shared about his experience in promoting peace through interfaith activities in Madurai.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM-KkUSEoRg>

Session Five: "Many Faces of Peace" by Dr. Homi Dhalla. It was



very creative and informative presentation, which include peace by artists, educationists, musicians, religious leaders, sportsman, statesmen etc. The young adults clarified their doubts and shared their inputs they also came forward to promote this message to their friends. **Out of 85 participants 75 said, Dr. Homi's presentation was one of the best in this conference.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtmy7iReQMk>

Session Six: “Leaders of New Century for Peace Activities” by Br. Victor, the correspondent of St. Mary’s school, Bangalore. He started his session with a song awake arise... and the participants also joined with him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch29dCiLxIE>



Session Seven: “The Source of Peace & Harmony” by Dr. Andiappan & Dr. Venkadachalam Gandhian Studies, Madurai



Kamarajar University. First five minutes they shared about the subject then they gave three questions to the participants for discussion. A fruitful discussion took place.

1. What are the sources of peace and harmony in Religion?
2. Love and Non- violence are the main sources of peace and harmony?
3. What can we do to establish peace and harmony in the country.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNFvCE68B4M>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_Zp-SDpWII

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhH5H0B7d-s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h86sRk-CvNc>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xv15SJdQl9w>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn9UKYExNCw>

Day Three (26th Sep 2012)

Third day all the participants visited Rameshwaram, a interfaith centre, which is around 130 km (three and half hours) away from Madurai. The journey begins with remembrance of Almighty for safe and fruitful journey. A token of gratitude owe to Bro. Stephen for providing his school buses for travel.





The journey took a break at Paramakudi Arutchantru Nilayam for breakfast. Bro. Augustine K Raj provided very delicious and Variety of breakfast to the participants. Most of the participants said, the breakfast was very new to them.

Session Eight:- “Dialogue for Peace & Harmony” by Bro. Augustine, who shared about the different ways we promote peace and harmony through Inter-Religious dialogue. Fr. Packianathan explained about the dialogue through an awareness song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juTU7Op-VBU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVDLWBv4xvY>



Bro. Augustine



Fr. Packianathan



Group photo at Paramakudi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFZILKDKQf0>



Interaction with Physically challenged children at Ramnad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zs39Nv-Qdy0>

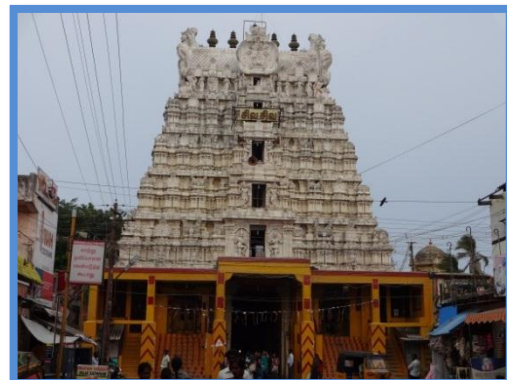


Lunch at Adiyaman Beach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kWHttqTM8g>

The group reached Rameshwaram at 3.00pm. and visited the temple. Participants were eager to know the story behind this historical place. Some of the local young adults explained about the importance of the Temple and promoted interfaith dialogue among the participants.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smy1sjaQ9kY>



Pampan Bridge



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgKSbvULg3w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nikdWZVrLns>

Day Four (27th Sep 2012)

The fourth day conference begins with previous day's evaluation. Most of the young adults shared their experiences on interfaith dialogue.

Session Nine:- “Group Dynamics and Human Rights Education” by Dr. J. Casmir and Bro. Stephen.



Dr. J. Casmir
Br. Stephen



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkQk5GwPonU>

Session Ten: “Peace Crane preparation & UDHR discussion (Group Competition)” by Janhvi Gupte. In the month of October 2011, Janhvi got an opportunity to visit Hiroshima, where she had unforgettable memories. In her session she shared about her experience at Hiroshima. It was a powerpoint presentation and it made many of the participants to break in to tears. She also displayed the posters on Hiroshima and Nagasaki bomb bloused.

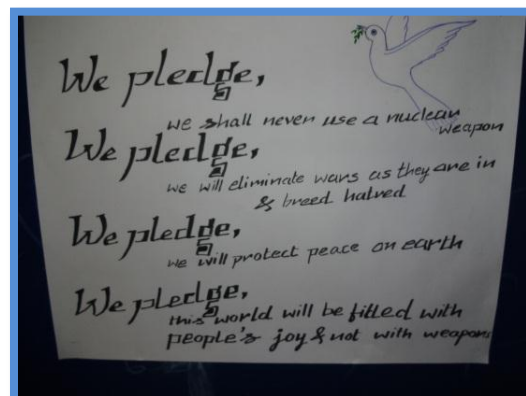


Janhvi also taught PEACE CRANE (symbol of peace) to the participants and at last she requested the participants to take the pledge for peace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjXyCHRYI7w>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQmT6MXOiOI&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NVFPn1gtwI&feature=youtu.be>



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwwDxhbUDuw&feature=youtu.be>

Session Eleven: “Human Rights Education and Training” by Bro. Albert Xaviour. He shared about HRE training program by IARF and his experience in organizing HRE programs in India. He also explained about the history of human rights and UDHR.





Session Twelve: “UDHR Group Discussion and Presentation” this session was moderated by Rev. Br. S. Benjamin, the Vice Provincial of Angelo Province, Tiruchy. The participants were divided in to ten groups and given ten important articles of UDHR for presentation.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nT_y6W4c9k

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIy4kl03NIA&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIy4kl03NIA>

UDHR- Art 4 (No Slavery)



UDHR – Art 2 (Don’t Discriminate)

UDHR- Art 18 (Freedom of Religion)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWnd-oe3Ebw>

Rev. Yukari Miwa's Visit: Rev. Yukari Miwa visited the conference and shared the message sent by Rev.



Miwa Takahiro. Her formal visit to the conference made participants to feel IARF international presence. She was welcomed by the young adults with garland and gifts. She was also presented the peace painting by Mr. Nishad.



Bro. Albert Xaviour shared about Rev. Miwa and his valuable service to IARF. The message of Rev. Miwa was very informative and also it motivated the young adults to commit themselves for IARF activities. The participants shared their four days experience in the conference and expressed heartfelt thanks to her for her fine visit.



Group Photo with Rev. Yukari Miwa



Entertainment

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUIUaKOIM-s>

Day Five (28th Sep 2012)

Fifth day conference was begin with interfaith prayer. Bro. Albert Xaviour explained the participants about planning for future activities. The participants were requested to divide in to different groups. They were given few questions and guidelines to be followed during the discussion. After the deep discussion they brought very beautiful future plans and the leaders of the group presented the plans.



Group Discussion



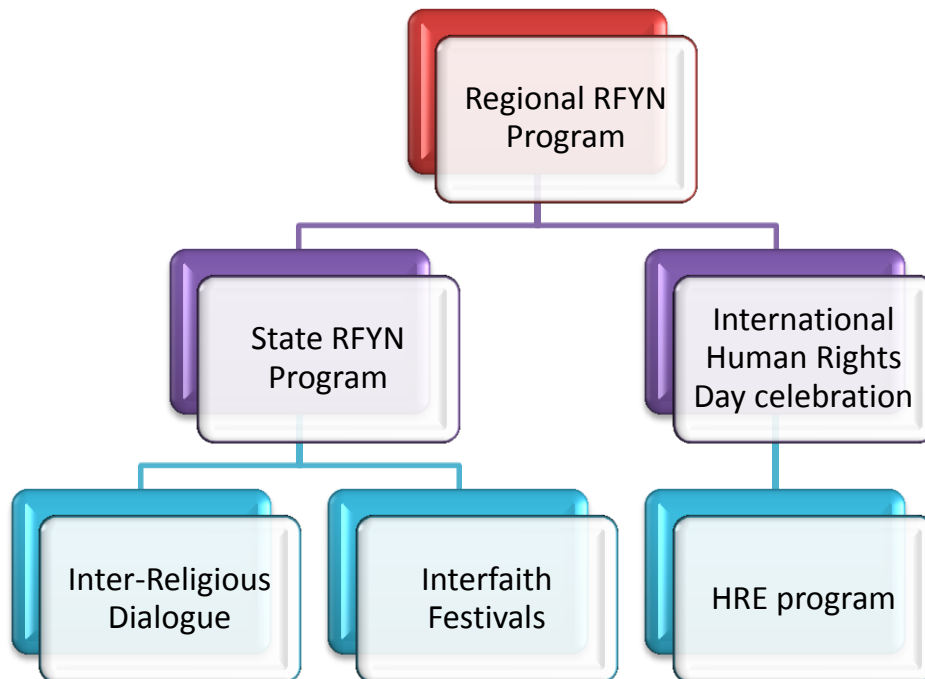
Future plan presentation



Future Plans

- ✦ HRE Programs in Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh (all the expenses from the local institutions, completely with local resources)
- ✦ Regional level program at any one of the states Ahmedabad- Gujarat, Indore- Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad- Andhra Pradesh, Bangalore – Karnataka on 9th and 10th Dec 2012.
- ✦ Organizing International Human Rights Day at different places in a creative and very informative way.

- ✦ IARF day will be celebrated as an Inter-Religious day.
- ✦ Creating good network and helping Robert to provide news on Human Rights and Religious Rreedom.
- ✦ Celebrating interfaith festivals in group to bring peace in the society



Valedictory Celebration



The valedictory celebration was started at 2.30pm. Thiru. K. Baskaran the Chairman of Tamilnadu State Human Rights was invited as a chief guest. The program was started with invocation prayer.



Special Invitees and Guests

- ✦ Dr. Arul Arasu Israel – HOD, Social Work Department, American College, Madurai
- ✦ Br. Christopher SHJ – Social Work Commission, Angelo Province, Trichy
- ✦ Fr. Jebamalairaj SJ – Rector, St. Mary's Institutions, Madurai
- ✦ Adv. Rangapashyam – IC member IARF, Chennai
- ✦ Thiru. K. Baskaran, - Chairman, Tamilnadu State Human Rights Commission, Chennai
- ✦ Rev. Br. Edward Francis SHJ – Provincial Superior, Angelo Province, Trichy



Lighting the Lamp



Welcoming



Sharing Experience



Felicitations



Chief Guest Address





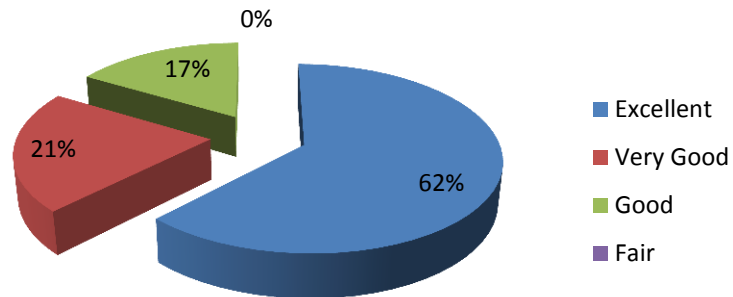
Awarding Certificate

Sharing Experiences by Participants

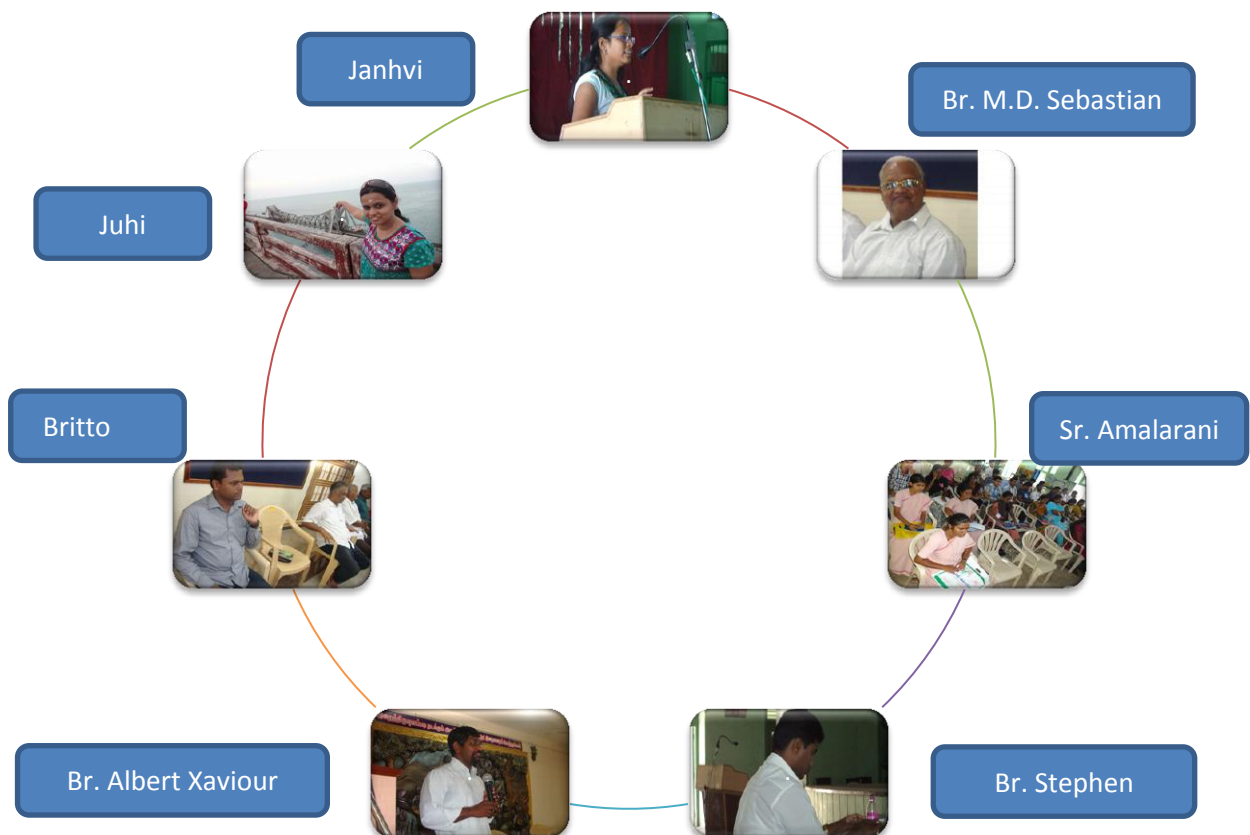
- ✦ The theme of the conference was best suitable and was inline with the discussions we been through.
- ✦ We have never experienced such an interesting conference ever before.
- ✦ We learned about faces of peace and harmony through this conference.
- ✦ This conference is very important for new generation, because so many violation are taking place in our society, this conference will surely help hundreds of people to work for peace and harmony.
- ✦ I think this topic should be spread widely among the young adults, because they are the one who bring changes in the society. Let us teach what we learned from this conference to stop war.
- ✦ The messages from the President, Secretary and Rev. Miwa have motivated us to involve with full commitment.
- ✦ The conference made me to discover the treasures of peace and harmony within.
- ✦ Most of the human beings are searching for this kind of conference to bring peace and harmony in the family and the society.
- ✦ I am very happy about the conference and thank IARF and Angelo Province for giving me this opportunity.
- ✦ I understood different ways to bring peace and harmony through this conference.
- ✦ Now I feel, I am a good leader to bring peace and harmony in to the world.
- ✦ This conference changed my lifestyle and inspired me to work for peace and harmony
- ✦ I learned many good things about other religions.
- ✦ Rameshwaram visit was very meaningful and we learned about other religious worship and practises.



Feedback



Organising Committee ...



Reporting Committee



Pawan

Vimala

Synthia

Important Discussions...

1. Discussion about 2014 congress:- Bro. Albert Xaviour explained to the young adults about the present discussion of 2014 congress venue. Few points were given by the young adults.
 - ✦ If the congress is in Jerusalem, many of the participants may face problems in visa especially Muslim participants.
 - ✦ The enthusiastic RFYN eager to participate in congress 2014 at Jerusalem, will not be able to do so, as no local support and contribution for RFYN.
 - ✦ If the total no of participants are 100, than how many young adults representatives will be there?
 - ✦ Will the congress be safe in Jerusalem?
2. The young adults from Chennai and Mysore ere conducted and informed this IYC, Madurai, many of them enquired for the registration forms and application forms, but at the eleventh hour they did not answered confirmation calls and follow-ups. The top-level politics should not hamper the minds of the young adults as they want to work together for all forth coming RFYN activities.
3. As the RFYN were being informed about Rev. Yukari Miwa and Dr. Thomas Mathew's visit to motivate the young adults. The same was also communicated via program schedule pamphlets. RFYN were waiting to meet former president of IARF and get enlightened by his thoughts. It was disappointing when Dr. Thomas Mathew did not registered his footfall for the conference venue. As a part schedule RFYN were being told that Thomas Mathew and Rev. Yukari Miwa arrived Madurai.

4. When IYC 2012 was chalked out 4 months before and its preparations and progress was informed timely to the council and all the senior members of IARF, the RFYN was disheartened to know about the pre scheduled meeting by Chennai young adults in the same day and following.
5. Many young adults come forward raise fund to Human Rights Education program in India. All the young adults, who participated the HRE program said, it is possible to raise fund for HRE programs, because it is very important and most of the institutions like this kind of programs. This statement of the young adults has proven that they can stand independently without any support from IARF secretariat for this noble cause.

Income for the conference

1. Institutions

a) St. Mary's School, V.K. Puram	-10, 000.00
b) St. Antony School, Kallidaikurichy	- 2,000.00
c) Brothers House, Tuticorin	- 5,000.00
d) St. Mary's Boarding, Tuticorin	- 500.00
e) St. Joseph's School, Muthupetai	- 5,000.00
f) Caussanel College, Muthupetai	- 5,000.00
g) Girls Hostel, Muthupetai	- 5,000.00
h) St. Mary's Hostel, Muthupetai	-10,000.00
i) St. Joseph's Hostel, Muthupetai	- 5,000.00
j) St. Aloysius School, Rayappanpatti	- 5,000.00
k) St. Aloysius Hostel, Rayappanpatti	-10,000.00
l) Infant Jesus School, Ramnad	- 45,000.00
m) Brothers House, Ramnad	- 2,000.00
n) Brothers House, Paramakudi	- 10,000.00
o) St. Joseph's School, Soosainagar	- 10,000.00
p) Angelo ITI, Hindupur	- 10,000.00
q) Fathima College	- 5,000.00
r) CIC Sisters, Madurai	- 5,000.00
s) CIC Sisters, Sivagangai	- 5,000.00
t) CIC Sisters, Palaymkottai	- 5,000.00
u) St. Antony's College, Dindugal	- 5,000.00
v) Angelo Provinciate	- 30,000.00

Total = 194,500.00



2. Donors

a) Adv. Rangapashyam	- 25,000.00
b) Dr. Homi Dhalla	- 15,000.00
c) Albert Family	-10,000.00
d) Participants	- 48,000.00

Total = **98,000.00**

Grant Total = **292,500.00**

Expenses for the conference

1. Food and accommodation	- 142,000.00
2. Transport	- 17,000.00
3. Travel expenses	- 89,000.00
4. Stationary	- 12,000.00
5. Printing	- 9,500.00
6. Medical expenses	- 5,500.00
7. Gifts and Mementos	- 13,500.00
8. Remunerations	- 9,500.00
9. Video and Photo	- 11,000.00
10. Decorations	- 2,000.00
11. Hall rent	- 14,000.00
12. Screen rent	- 1,200.00
13. Miscellaneous	- 4,000.00

Grant Total = **330,200.00**

Total Income = **292,500.00**

Total Expenses = **330,200.00**

Deficit = **37,700.00**



“Let us wish to live in peace and harmony by considering one another as members of our family.” Many Thanks for all your support.

The Video report will be send to the secretariat, Japan.

Bro. Albert Xaviour

India.