

July - Aug 2026, Issue 139

INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE 2026 TOOWOOMBA



On Saturday 29 August, we hosted our annual International Peace Conference under the theme 'Shared Humanity, Shared Responsibility'. The conference brought together people from diverse faiths, cultures and community backgrounds for a day of learning, dialogue, reflection and connection.

We were particularly grateful for the wonderful contribution of our guest speakers and panelists, who shared incredibly valuable and inspiring perspectives on multiculturalism, social cohesion, security, spiritual wellbeing and the importance of building trust within diverse communities. Their insights gave participants much to reflect on and, importantly, practical ideas to carry forward into our own communities.

The afternoon concluded with an engaging 'Respond & Rebuild' scenario simulation, where participants stepped into the roles of school, youth and community leaders responding to a fictional incident that had created tension and division. Working in groups, participants considered how they would respond to the immediate crisis and then develop practical ways to rebuild trust and strengthen community cohesion.

The activity brought much energy and enthusiasm to the room as participants embraced their leadership roles, exchanged ideas and put the lessons from the day into practice. It was a valuable reminder that peacebuilding is not simply about discussion — it is about how we respond, lead, listen, and work together when our communities face challenges.

The conference was a wonderful celebration of Toowoomba's continuing journey as an International City of Peace and a reminder that creating a peaceful and inclusive society is a shared responsibility.



PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC. MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

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



INTERNATIONAL INTERFAITH PEACE CONFERENCE BY ACCIN 2026

Reflection by Manal Ishak

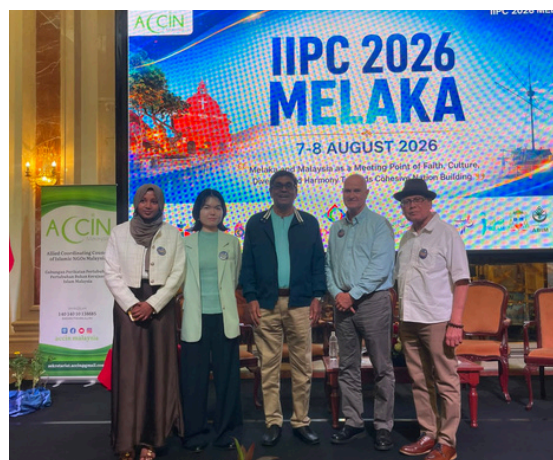
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Attending the International Interfaith Peace Conference 2026 in Melaka was a meaningful experience. As a youth panellist representing the Toowoomba Youth Peace Group (TYPG), I spoke on "From Awareness to Action: Youth Leadership in Interfaith Engagement," highlighting the importance of young people turning awareness of diversity into meaningful action through dialogue, community projects and lasting relationships.

The conference provided valuable opportunities to hear diverse perspectives on peacebuilding, interfaith harmony and the role of youth in an increasingly digital world. Connecting with people from different cultures and faiths reinforced the importance of communication, respect and collaboration in creating peaceful communities.

Exploring Melaka's rich multicultural and multireligious heritage also added to the experience, offering a real-life reflection of the themes discussed at the conference.

I left with greater confidence as a young leader and a stronger understanding that interfaith engagement is not simply about talking about peace—it is about building relationships and turning awareness into action.



TOOWOOMBA REPRESENTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL INTERFAITH CONFERENCE IN MALAYSIA

Toowoomba was proudly represented at a International Interfaith Conference in Melaka, Malaysia, where our delegation had the honour of meeting faith leaders from across the region. We were especially grateful that Venerable Cheng De was invited to deliver a keynote address, sharing valuable insights on interfaith harmony, mutual understanding and the importance of building peaceful communities.

Venerable Cheng De also graciously hosted our Toowoomba delegation for lunch the day before the conference, encouraging us to continue the vision and work of Venerable Master Chin Kung. He reminded us that Toowoomba holds a special place in Master Chin Kung's heart, carrying with it a responsibility to continue promoting peace, harmony, education and intercultural understanding.

We are deeply grateful for Venerable Cheng De's wisdom and encouragement, and for his continued efforts to strengthen connections between faiths and communities.





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QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE ANNUAL MULTIFAITH MULTICULTURAL DINNER



The annual Queensland Police Service Multifaith Multicultural Dinner was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the strong relationships between the QPS and Queensland's diverse faith and cultural communities.

In the closing address, Kam Athwal, a member of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group, highlighted the significance of the term 'Police Service' rather than 'Police Force' — reflecting the institution's commitment to serving and contributing to the community.



The evening also featured a lively cultural dance performed by members of the Queensland Police Service, adding to the spirit of celebration and connection. The event highlighted the important role of Police Liaison Officers in building trust, understanding and meaningful connections with diverse communities.

We are grateful for the ongoing efforts of the Queensland Police Service to engage with and support Australia's multicultural and multifaith communities, helping to build safer, more connected, and inclusive communities.

VOICES OF FAITH RADIO 102.7 FM

Voices of Faith continues to bring diverse cultures, practices and beliefs to the community through Radio 102.7 FM. The program airs every Friday and Sunday from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm, providing an opportunity to share stories, traditions and perspectives from across our multicultural and multi-faith community.

If you have a culture, practice or belief you would like to share, we would love to hear from you. Please contact mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com or amitufo.loophy@gmail.com to get involved.

Multicultural Leadership for Mutual Respect and Understanding

This workshop will explore how we, as leaders, can build mutual trust, respect and understanding within and across our diverse communities.

Through sharing ideas, role-playing and practical activities, participants will develop a shared approach to communication and behaviour as a multicultural leadership group.

Places: Limited to 15 participants

Tentative Date: 11 October

Venue: Pure Land Learning College Association Inc.

Expressions of Interest: amitufo.loophy@gmail.com / mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com