

SPOTLIGHT

**[Wrapping up 2017]
Korean Youth Join
as One for Peace**

FEATURE ARTICLE

**Learning About
Myself by Talking,
“Talk Concert”**

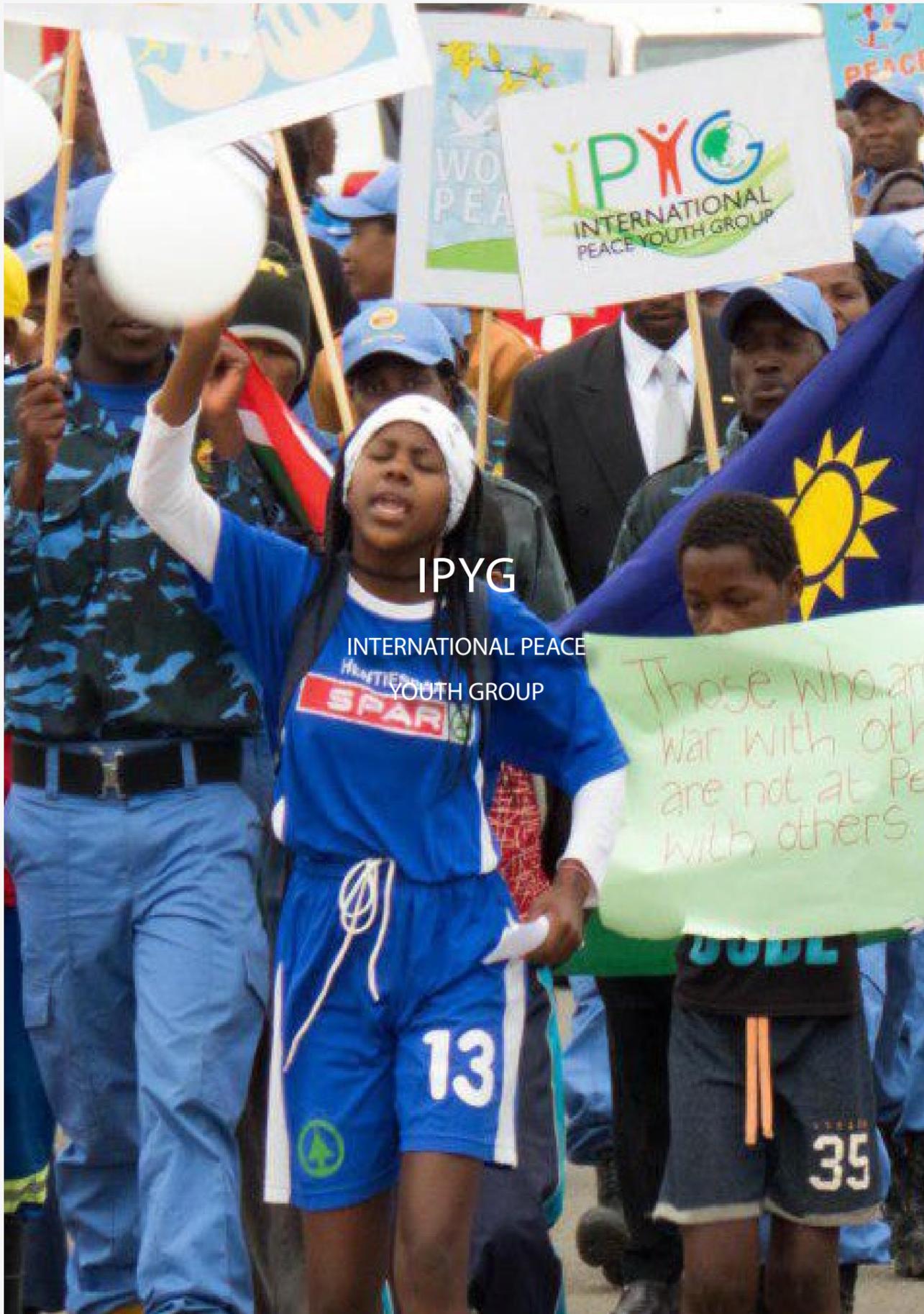
INTERVIEW

**Ismaila Oluwatoyin
Adeniyi**

IPYG

NEWSLETTER

IPYG NEWSLETTER JANUARY



IPYG
INTERNATIONAL PEACE
YOUTH GROUP

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SPOTLIGHT

[Wrapping up 2017] Korean Youth Join as One for Peace

Looking Back at IPYG Programs in Korea as the Year Closes

From the peaceful candlelight protest that replaced a scandalous administration, to heated debates on war weapons, THAAD, to North Korean missile threats, 2017 was a year full of matters that reminded Korean youth of the necessity of peace and the role of young adults.

Wrapping up its year of working for peace led by youth, the IPYG, held a function last December to raise Korean youth's awareness of peace issues and called for solutions to those issues. The events took place in Hyeonhwa in Seoul, Wonju in Gangwon-do, and Shinchon in Seoul.

PEACE PARTY on December 16th was held in

a small theater called Maru Hall in Hyeonhwa-dong in Seoul to help participants get familiar with the concept of peace and to recognize the need for peace. Event participants discussed why we need peace and what the role of youth is for establishing peace.

A play describing the realities of the divided Koreas, Let Peace Bloom, performed by the IPYG Pureum Theater Troupe was loved by the participants. Some said after the play "The scene where the mother made rice balls for her son leaving home was heartbreaking." Others said the play reminded them of the fact that it is



youth that are sent to face death when there is a war, and they realized they were too indifferent to the matter. Some said they wanted to know how they can join the IPYG's cause.

On December 27th, at the History Museum in Wonju, Gangwon Province, the event HISTORY, HISTORY reflected on the veterans who fought in the Korean War to keep peace on the Korean Peninsula. The keynote speaker at the event was Tae Kwon Uhm, the Gangwon Branch Director of the Korean Student Soldier Veterans Association. In his speech, Uhm recalled his experience as a student soldier when he was fifteen years old during the Korean War. "The constant noise of bombs and gunfire.... bodies piled and piled on top of me. There were desperate cries for help and the smell of blood everywhere. In that living hell, I barely pulled myself together as I thought, 'What would my parents do if I die and they get no word?'" Calling on youth for action for peace, he added, "Without the awareness of youth we cannot prevent repeating the heartbreaking past. I am proud to be with the members of the IPYG that hosted today's event."

The following day, December 28th, there was a Guerrilla Speech by youth on 'Recovering Youth Sovereignty for Peace' on a street sidewalk in

Shinchon, a busy area in Seoul. Participants freely spoke about the values youth should have and whether the rights of youth are respected. IPYG held the Guerrilla Speech event to reflect on the reality far from peace where many youth are denied their rights and to call for efforts for youth sovereignty. Shinchon, where the event took place, is considered one of the hottest spots in Seoul bustling with Korean and international youth community along with Hyeonhwa area where the PEACE PARTY was hosted. It shows that IPYG is becoming more and more familiar to and appreciated by young adults.

At the events hosted in Korea during December 2017, approximately 100 young adults including Koreans and international students studying in Korea have signed up to join the peace activities of the IPYG.

As the new members joined the IPYG, Korean members said they want to do what they can for their country, and international students who signed up said they are excited to know how to participate while they are in Korea.

December marked a remarkable end as we bid farewell to 2017 and greatly look forward to the IPYG's progress in Korea in 2018.

FEATURE ARTICLE 1

Learning About Myself by Talking, “Talk Concert”

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Youth of Kenya Discuss the Value of Young People



On 16 December 2017, a “Talk Concert” was held with the theme of “Value and Self-Realization,” in both Nairobi and Kitale in Kenya. The event was co-hosted by the IPYG and the Maestros Leadership Team, which is an organization that teaches youth leadership and implements relevant projects. In collaboration, the two organizations provided a platform for the young people to discuss not only leadership, but also the values of youth.

At the event, youth participants first gathered in groups to talk about the characteristics of youth. The attributes of youth were described with words such as “passionate,” “energetic,” “free,” “active,” “progressive,” and “hard-working.” Next, they discussed what kind of values should be considered important to youth, who embody these qualities. The discussions ended with the conclusion that for youth to be youth, they first need to learn about themselves through self-realization.

Including the members of the branches of Maestros Leadership Team Kenya, a total of 275 youth took part in the Talk Concert, and they shared a wide range of opinions on life values. Also, group discussions and panel lectures enabled the young people to think about what makes youth a crucial time period in life.

After participating in the concert, many of them shared what they felt. For instance, Mary Wairimu, who is a member of the

Maestros, mentioned that the event was very interesting and productive. She added that the discussions made her understand the different perspectives of others and also realize that even if people look at the same thing, they form different opinions.

Samwel Kiboi, who is in charge of PR at the Maestros, also stated that he was able to learn that youth is an important period in life because in that time frame, you determine the direction of life and shape your perspective on fundamental values. He also added that he believes it would help youth realize their values more if the IPYG provides such a platform more often, and that he is grateful to the IPYG for this educational opportunity.

This coming February, the Maestros Leadership Team will host “Youth Empowerment Workshop,” together with the IPYG under a new theme. The collaboration between the Kenyan youth and the IPYG is expected to strengthen in the year 2018.

FEATURE ARTICLE 2

Peace Walk Held in Henties Bay, Namibia



Henties Bay Growing into A City of Peace

Mr. Herman Honeb, the mayor of Henties Bay who attended the 3rd Annual Commemoration of the September 18th World Alliance of Religions' Peace Summit, organized a peace walk in Henties Bay, Namibia on the 30th of November 2017. The event brought together the mayor and the members of Henties Bay Municipality Council as well as the local residents to highlight the importance of peace. The aim of the peace walk was to realize Article 10 of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War: spreading a culture of peace.

Mayor Herman Honeb shared his unforgettable experience at the WARP Summit with the participants of the peace walk. He explained how organizing this event would serve as a platform to transform Henties Bay into a city of peace, and he promised to participate in building a culture of peace and harmony in Henties Bay.

Also, Mr. Kotokeni Shimbinda, the Executive Chairperson

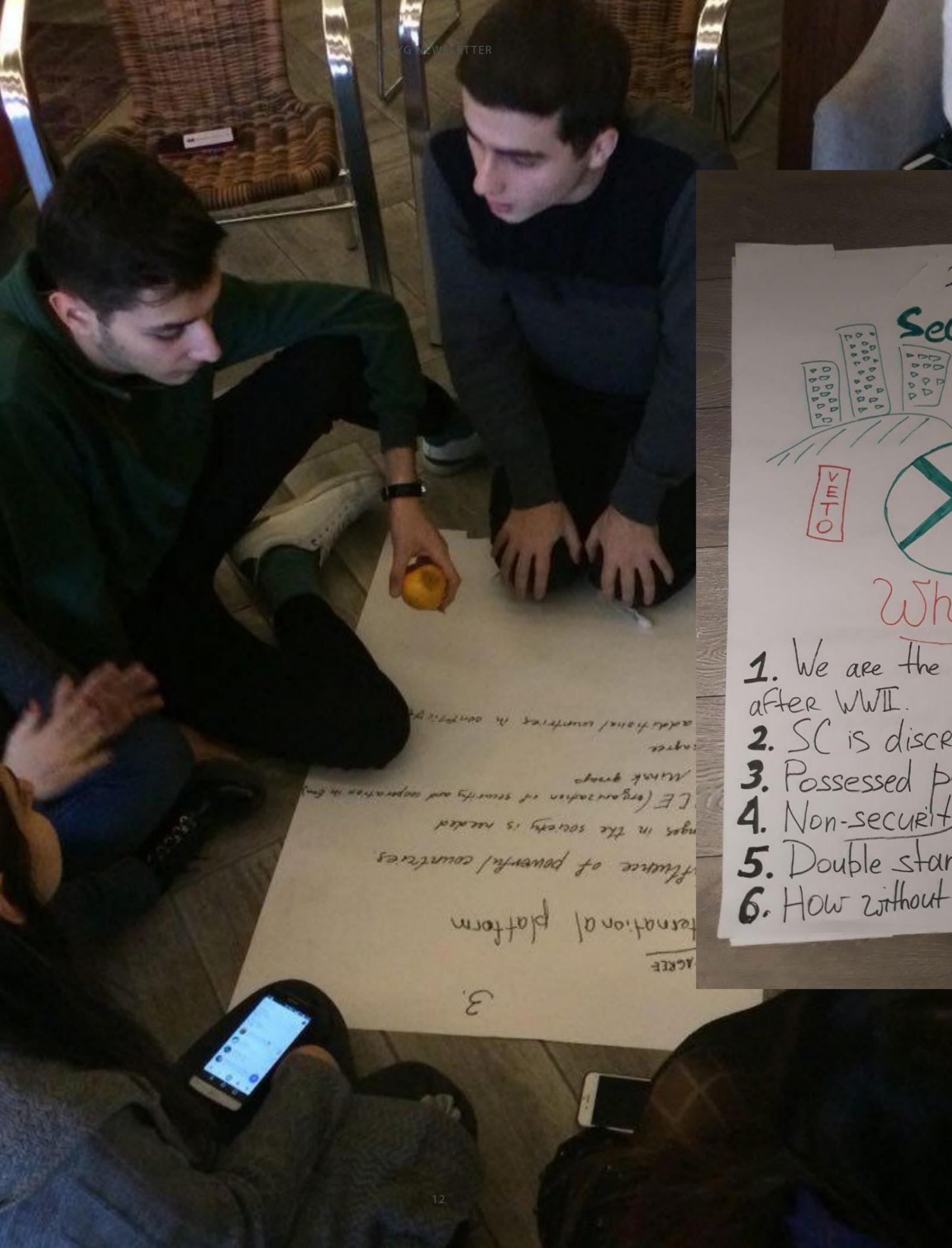


of Namibia Youth Development Organization as well as a member of the IPYG, stressed the role of young people in building peace. He said that world renowned leaders were able to achieve many noble causes because they all started with a firm determination. Following their footsteps, youth also have to be determined to leave peace as a legacy to future generations and to realize the DPCW by spreading a culture of peace.

After the speech, 340 participants including the mayor, the members of Henties Bay Municipality Council, and the members of local organizations began the peace walk at the Henties Bay Municipality and throughout the town. This event has received much attention due to its many participants in a small city.

The IPYG will cooperate with Henties Bay by forming a committee to plan peace activities and to conduct trainings on ways to spread a culture of peace to the women and youth. Joining efforts with Henties Bay, the IPYG will continue to promote peace and organize various events to bring people together under a common cause, peace.

This peace walk event was an opportunity for the youth of Henties Bay to reaffirm their commitment to peace. In 2018, the IPYG will continue with its peace initiatives with young people in Henties Bay in hopes of bringing inspiration to all the youth around the world. Also, the IPYG looks forward to seeing a culture of peace spread across all regions of Namibia.



AFFILIATES UPDATE

East European Youth Gather for Social Integration of Migrants

Shedding Light onto the Role of International Law within Global Problems with IPYG

The number of forced migrants grew to its highest, 65.6 million people in 2016, due to war, violence and persecution, and the number continues to grow until this day. Due to this rapid increase, the global society is facing new problems such as the human rights of forced migrants as well as exclusivism towards them.

Therefore, in order to discuss how migrants from different cultures, nations, languages and backgrounds could be socially integrated into a new country, Youth Participation and Intercultural Dialogue Association decided to plan the "Social Inclusion of Migrants Project", which is a program from EU Erasmus+. This event was held for 7 days in Izmir, Turkey from December 5, 2017 to December 11, 2017.

The participants included members from the IPYG, as

well as youth from Germany, Turkey, Greece, Georgia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, and more, and around 30 members from various NGO's and educational facilities. The participants discussed the problems migrants in their respective countries faced as well as their solutions in four major areas: education, environment, health and residence.

Afterwards, the IPYG held an 'open discussion' time where the participants could discuss and think about the role of international law as well as the DPCW in regards to worldwide problems such as wars that create forced migrants. They approached global issues through international law in groups, and each group presented their discussion results.

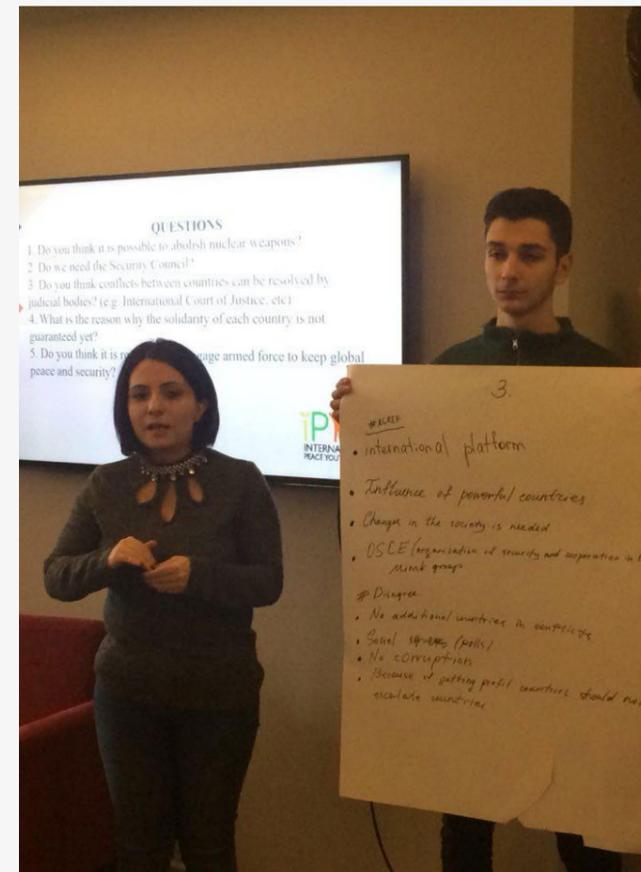
Mr. Nikita Kovchuga works as a child protection field officer in Terres des Hommes, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of youth. He admits that he also suffered through the pains of having to leave his hometown due to the conflict in Ukraine that started in 2014, and that is why he is working to help youth in similar situations today. He also stated that the IPYG's efforts of approaching peace on a global level is very practical.

Mr. Onul Oguz Dellal, the founder and pres-

ident of YPIDA, stated that the forced migrant problem also stems from war, therefore, he also supports the DPCW to make changes in the world. Furthermore, he expressed his eagerness to work with the IPYG in the European regions in the future.

Youth of various nationalities pledged to go back to their nations and carry out activities, so the forced migrants could integrate themselves into society as well as to support the peace works of the IPYG.

The IPYG is working worldwide even today for the cessation of war and world peace while wishing for a world of peace where there are no more forced migrants who must leave their countries due to war.



Izmir, Turkey





INTERVIEW

Ismaila Oluwatoyin Adeniyi

Executive Director of International Youth Reformation Organization (IYOREF)

Q1. I see that you have worked very hard with IPYG, what made you decide to work with IPYG among so many NGO's?

A1: The first thing that attracted my attention to IPYG was the good human relations displayed by Ms. Celine. She presented and represented IPYG very well. Before she called

me, I didn't know anything about IPYG. My interest was piqued to know more about IPYG's core values. I read a lot about IPYG and thought it would be interesting to work with them especially on world peace with the way IPYG carries out their program in such a unique way.

Q2. Why do you think peace education is necessary?

A2: Peace education is necessary in Nigeria because of the situation there. Youth are vulnerable. Every part of the country has one or two militia groups agitating aggressively for one or two things. So, it's important to change the orientation of youth through peace education so that even if they demand something good, it should be done in a peaceful manner. So peace education is needed for youth both in and out of school.

Q3. I heard that you have made great achievements in implementing this Youth Empowerment Peace Workshop. What efforts have you made for its achievement?

A3: Let me answer this way. We have tried to engage professionals because we want to make history in peace education in Nigeria. And everyone has passion about achieving great results.

Q4. Could you let us know if you have any plans for future peace activities through the workshop?

A4: We have many plans for the future because sustainability is very key for any project. We have planned for this.

Q5. Please leave a message of peace for the heads of organizations and members

of more than 800 organizations around the world who work with IPYG.

A5: I will borrow the motto of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat that states "LOVE FOR ALL, HATRED FOR NONE". With this, the world will be at peace.

LETTER TO IPYG [2018 NEW YEAR MESSAGE]

Dr. Martin Uhomoibhi

Former president of the UN Human Rights Council, President (PAIGAS)



As we mark the beginning of a new year, I extend warm felicitations to the members of the Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) worldwide.

The year 2017 witnessed moments of joy and peace, but also some of the greatest threats to global peace and security. With the rise of nationalism or populism, xenophobia and racism, climate change denials and the growing threat of nuclear proliferation, it is no exaggeration to state that the world is presently in dire straits.

Therefore, in the circumstance of our troubled world, organizations like HWPL, deserve to be commended for reaching out to all humanity as a voice of moderation, reason and peace. Under the esteemed leadership of Chairman Man Hee Lee, the HWPL has continued to exert its best efforts as an advocate for genuine peace across the world, without prejudice to religion, race or creed.

It is my fervent hope that HWPL would continue to grow from strength to strength in 2018 and beyond. It is also my earnest prayer that the message of peace, which it champions, will be sustained for many generations to come.

Dr. Martin Uhomoibhi
Former president of the UN Human Rights Council,
President (PAIGAS)

