

**SOLIDARITY STATEMENT FROM THE PARTICIPANTS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE ON PEACE EDUCATION
AUGUST 2002
MIRIAM COLLEGE – QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES**

Kalinaw/Kapayapaan/Salam/Heiwa/Frieden/Peace!

We, the participants of the 20th International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) from Austria, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, P.R. China, Turkey, and the U.S.A., have come together here at Miriam College, Quezon City (August 19-25, 2002) to "weave solidarity toward a culture of peace," as this year's theme says.

Though we come from different backgrounds and cultures, we are brought together by our common aspirations for peace. After several days of enriching dialogue and efforts to understand the complex issues that hinder the attainment of a sustainable peace, we are moved to commit ourselves to the following values and goals. We urge all governments and civil society to similarly commit themselves to these principles.

- Respect for all forms of life and the regeneration of the environment
- Respect for and appreciation of diversity of cultures and beliefs
- A humane and just economic order in the local and global levels
- Right to self-determination of communities of people
- Resolution of conflicts through non-violent action
- Equal participation and full involvement of women in decision-making in the peace process (UN Res. 1325)

We also wish to express our deep concern about recent developments in the Philippines today, particularly the perceived escalation of the armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the New People's Army. We support the call of the *All-Out Peace Group* to take the option for peace. We reiterate their call to both parties to stop the rhetorics of war because the lives of the people and the soldiers of both sides are at stake. We cannot afford the heavy cost of war on the people and the communities. We appeal to the parties to renew the peace process and build upon the gains it had achieved.

We recognize the challenges in the way of peace throughout the world and value peace education as an important tool to mobilize passions for peace. We honor the efforts, initiatives and concrete actions that have already been started and are continuing, to enhance and institutionalize peace education. We are aware of the long and arduous task ahead of us. As we educate the next generation on the values of peace, we should not be weakened by the challenges confronting us today.

Weaving solidarity is waging peace together and uniting commitments for peace.

-Declared by the Participants of IIPE 2002