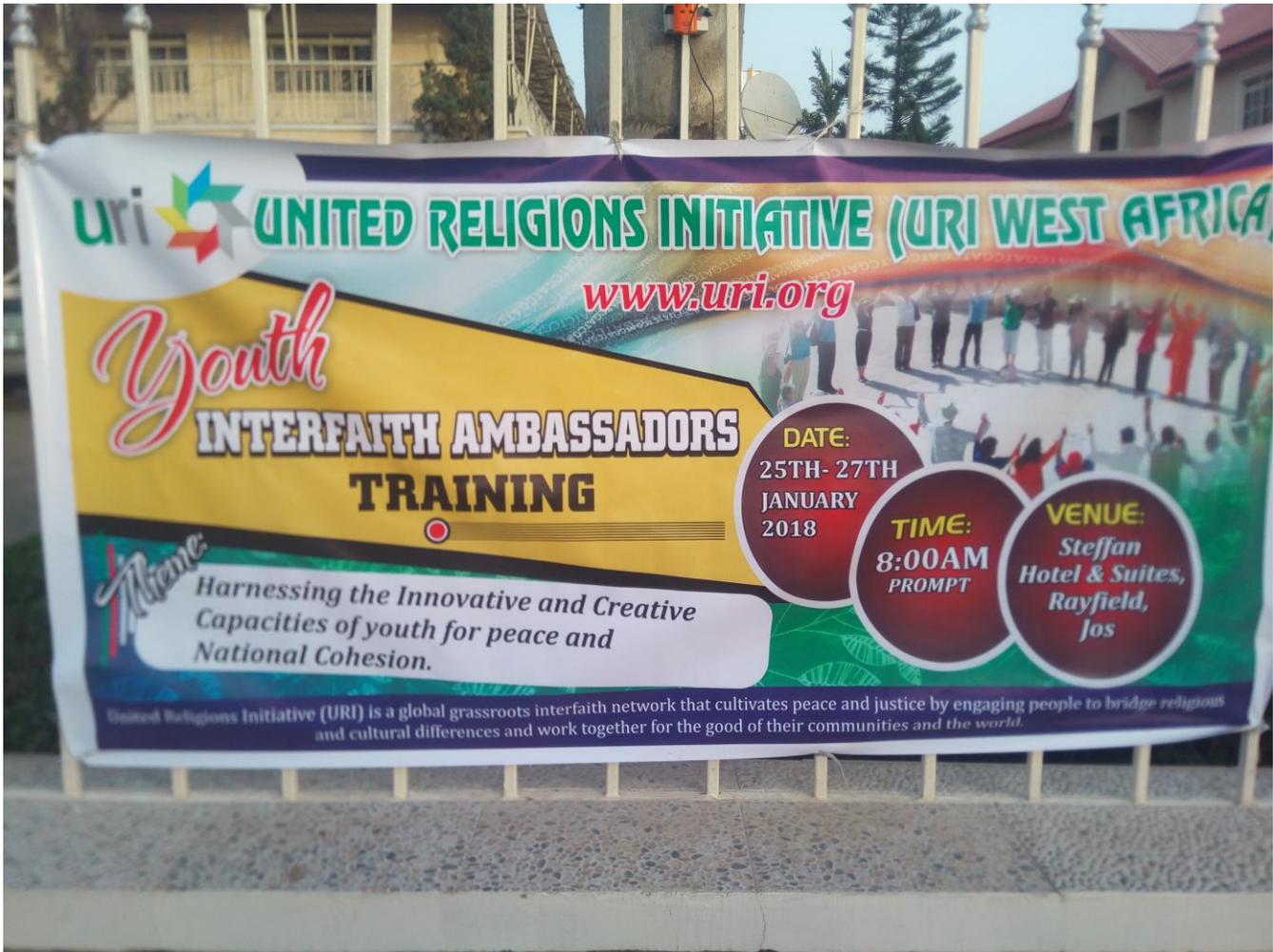


URI WEST AFRICA TRAINS YOUTH INTERFAITH AMBASSADORS

JANUARY 25-27. 2018

STEFFAN HOTEL & SUITES, JOS, NIGERIA



Theme: Harnessing the Innovative and Creative Capacities of Youth for Peace and National Cohesion

ABOUT UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE

United Religions Initiative is a global grassroots interfaith network that cultivates peace and justice by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the good of their communities and the world. We are dedicated to promoting enduring daily interfaith cooperation to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings. Our Cooperation Circles (CCs) are transcending religious and cultural divisions to create inclusive, on-the-ground solutions to critical issues facing their communities and regions. Our unique design allows for border-crossing among faith traditions, member organizations and regions; propels rapid, self-replicating growth; and extends our chartered principles into partnerships to transform communities and entire regions.

OUR MISSION

URI is a global grassroots interfaith network that cultivates peace and justice by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the good of their communities and the world. We implement our mission through local and global initiatives that build the capacity of our more than 600 member groups and organizations, called Cooperation Circles, to engage in community action such as conflict resolution and reconciliation, environmental sustainability, education, women's and youth programs, and advocacy for human rights.

THE YOUTH INTERFAITH AMBASSADORS TRAINING

From January 25th – 27th, 2018, United Religions Initiative (URI West Africa), trained 15 young men and women, aged 18-35 years as Youth Interfaith Ambassadors. The participants were drawn from Kano, Adamawa, Plateau, Benue and Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory. The training was conducted at the Steffan Hotels and Suites, Rayfield, Jos, Nigeria.



Resource Persons and Trainers included

- a. **Michael Olufemi Sodipo, PhD**, Field Officer Nexus Fund and Peace Direct, Executive Director Peace Initiative Network (PIN), Kano, Nigeria
- b. **Alh. Salis Abdulsalam**, Executive Director, Face of Peace/Displaced Women and Orphans Foundation
- c. **His Grace Salika Dasa**, Temple President, International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

d. Mr. Pwakim Jacob Choji, Founder/Executive Director, Youth Initiative Against Violence & Human Rights Abuse (YIAVHA)

e. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, PhD, URI West Africa Regional Coordinator

Some of the Training Sessions covered included:

- a. Introduction to United Religions Initiative (URI), Strategic Math and The Moral Imagination
- b. Strategies for Community Peacebuilding
- c. Stakeholder Mobilization and Community Engagement
- d. Youth, Advocacy and Peacebuilding
- e. Spiritual Ecology

At the end of the 3day training all the participants with the resource persons, visited the ISKCON Jos Temple on Interfaith Pilgrimage and took Prasadam and books.



Participants at the ISKCON- Hare Krishna Temple in Jos, Nigeria



The Interfaith Youth Ambassador Program is an Initiative of URI West Africa, in partnership with the URI Young Leaders Program (YLP) to develop the leadership skills and capacities of young leaders interested in becoming more effective interfaith organizers and peace-builders. The Initiative empowers Young People with skills to build genuine cross-cultural and cross-regional relationships with other motivated young people by becoming a part of a growing group of quality young leaders within URI. The Youth Interfaith Ambassadors were selected in August 2017 through an application process to receive this training, focused support and mentorship they need to grow as interfaith leaders.

BENEFITS OF THE TRAINING

- a. Young people receive training to enhance their Interfaith leadership and community building skills
- b. Join a growing network of young leaders working on exciting and impactful interfaith activities
- c. Young people have the opportunities to take on significant roles within a large, international organization
- d. Young people have the chance to build strong and long lasting relationships with people from different backgrounds





Participants Reciting the Golden Rule





