

# AIM HOSTS PHILIPPINE MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERS, MONDAY 4 JUNE 2007



Chaaban Omran

Ten Philippine Muslim youth leaders visited Australia from Sunday 3 June to Saturday 9 June 2007 in a program hosted by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Australian Islamic Mission (AIM) was honoured to host the delegation at the Punchbowl Musallah on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in a visit that was coordinated by the Federation of Australian Muslim Students and Youth (FAMSU).



Nafeesur-Rahman

The DFAT program, part of Australia's broad and strong bilateral relationship with the Philippines, seeks to help build in that country more harmonious and peaceful inter-and-intra community relations.



Zunaid Moosa

It aims to allow Muslim leaders from the southern Philippines to develop a wider knowledge of methods and ways of addressing societal challenges and conflicts by exposing them to Australia's experience of multiculturalism; specifically the experiences of Australia's Muslim community.



Ahmed Moutsallem

This includes the importance of non-violent responses to community issues and the need for constructive engagement with government, its agencies, and between religious and community interests from interfaith dialogue to sports and youth affairs.



Imran Hosein

It's hoped the program will contribute to a more varied and deeper appreciation of issues faced by minority Muslim communities, with the Filipino participants furthering their awareness of the role and functions of effective community leadership in pursuing harmonious community relations.

The visiting youth leaders, aged 21-30, spent four days in Sydney from June 3-6 and the remaining two days, June 7-8, in Melbourne, returning to Manila on Saturday 9 June. They met a range of community,

civic, youth and religious organisations as well as educational bodies and media.

The visit to the AIM Centre ON Monday 4 June 2007, included presentations by several student and youth organisations:

- ♦ FAMSU (Br Chaaban Omran)
- ♦ Global Islamic Youth Centre (Sr Ummu Kulthoom, Br Zunaid Moosa)
- ♦ Islamic Society UNSW (Br Imran Hosein)
- ♦ UTS Muslim Society (Br Ahmed Moutsallem)
- ♦ Sydney University Muslim Students Association (Sr Ayesha and Sr Sabrine)
- ♦ AIM host (Dr Zachariah Matthews)

The presentations were followed by extensive discussions and a delicious meal at the local Jasmin restaurant.

The visiting delegates were:

- ♦ Ms Shahana E. Abdulwahid: BA (Phil), currently studying MA in Islamic Studies, chair University Student Council
- ♦ Ms Haslaida B. Abubacar: BA (Mass Comm), studied for Master in Public Admin., executive officer, volunteer services agency
- ♦ Mr Oting A. Agting: BSc (Pub Admin), community organiser, peace & development advocate
- ♦ Mr Sadie Yusoph Al-Amin: BSc (Office Admin), local chapter President of United Youth of Philippines
- ♦ Ms Djohanna M. Anayatin: BSc (Bus Admin), involved in women's & family issues, learning & training
- ♦ Ms Tharhata H. Habibain: Mindanao State University graduate, with a focus on youth training & development
- ♦ Mr Abdulgani A. Lappang: A teacher at HMIJ - Philippine Islamic College, Zamboanga City
- ♦ Ms Junaisa M. Mudsol: BSc (Bus Admin), third-year Law student, works for Provincial Government of Sarangani
- ♦ Mr. Anwar A. Upahm: BA (Social Work), Master Pub Admin, founding member Community Resource Development Centre
- ♦ Mr Nafeesur-Rahman E. Suhod: BSc (TA) College for Islamic & Arabic Studies, instructor, involved in good governance advocacy

