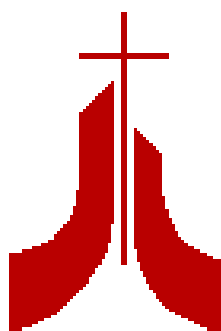


PROGRAM REPORT

July to December 2011



CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA

Chiang Mai, Thailand

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FOREWORD

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to God who had walked with us in time of joy and difficulty, I present to you the Report of the programs and activities of the Christian Conference of Asia July – December 2011. This was not an easy period as we went through a staff transition. During this period of 6 (six) months, 6 (six) staff completed their term of service in different time. It was also during this period that we began to implement the decision of the General Committee in its meeting in March 2011 to gradually embark with the reducing number of staff, namely one Executive Secretary for each Program Cluster with the provision to appoint Consultant and/or Program Assistant as funds allow. This hard decision was taken in the light of the financial constraints faced by CCA. At the same time, we engaged with the recruitment of new staff who are to start their works in 1 January 2012.

This situation becomes a primary reason that the program that we can not implement the whole programs for 2011 that have been planned and budgeted towards the end of the year 2010. I will appreciate your understanding.

The Report in your hands is a compilation of staff report, which is more elaborated, each with its own style. We do plan to publish a consolidated Report 2011 in the near future which will briefly highlight the overall CCA Program 2011, accompanying with notes on lessons that we learned and points that need to be improved in the future.

Let me use this opportunity to - on behalf of the CCA member churches and councils - express our heartfelt appreciation to the staff colleagues who have contributed to the ministry of CCA for the past few years: Rev. Dr. Rienzie Perera as Associate General Secretary for Finance and Relationships, Rev. Freddy de Alwis as Joint Executive Secretary for Justice, International Affairs and Development and Service, Dr. Hope Antone as Joint Executive Secretary for Faith, Mission and Unity, Ms. Moumita Biswas as Joint Executive Secretary for Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice and Youth Empowerment, Rev. Dr. Sung Kook Park as Joint Executive Secretary for Faith, Mission and Unity, Dr. Liza Lamiz as Consultant for Communications and Dr. Erlinda Senturias as Consultant for HIV/AIDS program. May God continuously bless them in their life journey.

In January 2012 we will welcome a new staff team. We will be grateful for your continuous prayers and support for the ministry of CCA.

Henriette Hutabarat Lebang
General Secretary

GENERAL SECRETARIAT (GS)

*Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang, General Secretary
Dr. Erlinda Senturias, Consultant, HIV and AIDS
Dr. Liza Lamis, Communications Consultant*

A. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The CCA Executive Committee met on 8-10 September 2011, in Chiang Mai with the main task of overseeing the implementation of the decisions of the General Committee in its meeting in March 2011, including appointments of new staff. Prior to that, the Personnel Committee met to interview the short listed candidates for Executive Secretary of Faith, Mission and Unity (FMU), and Executive Secretary for Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice and Youth Empowerment (EGY). Similarly, the Finance Committee met to review the CCA budget for 2011 and to prepare the CCA budget for 2012. Both budget documents were presented to the Executive Committee and were circulated to the General Committee members for their adoption. The newly appointed staff are: Rev. Grace Jung Eun Moon Jung from the Presbyterian Church of Korea as Executive Secretary for FMU, and Ms. Sunila Ammar from the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan as Executive Secretary for EGY. Both candidates were strongly recommended by the national council of churches in their respective countries. They will serve for four years and are expected to join the CCA staff in Chiang Mai by 1, January 2012.

In the year 2011 there was a major shift in the CCA staff team. There were six staff who completed their terms of service at different times, namely: Rev. Dr. Rienzie Perera, Associate General Secretary for Finance and Relationships, on 31 March 2011; Rev. Freddy de Alwis, Joint Executive Secretary for Justice, International Affairs and Development and Service, on 31 July 2011; Dr. Hope Antone, Joint Executive Secretary for Faith, Mission and Unity, on 30 September 2011; Ms. Moumita Biswas, Joint Executive Secretary for Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice and Youth Empowerment, on 30 November 2011; and Rev. Dr. Sung Kook Park, Joint Executive Secretary for Faith, Mission and Unity, on 31 December 2011. Also, the Consultant for Communications, Dr. Liza Lamis, and the Consultant for HIV and AIDS Program, Dr. Erlinda Senturias, both completed their terms of service on 31 December 2011. We are grateful for their valuable contributions in enriching the ministry of CCA.

In the light of the financial difficulty faced by the CCA, the General Committee in March 2011 decided not to make a new appoint for the position of Associate General Secretary for Finance and Relationships. It was also decided that instead of having two Executive Secretaries for each Program Cluster (JID, FMU, EGY), there will be only one Executive Secretary for each. A provision is given to appoint a Consultant or Program Assistant when the need arises and program fund is available. This challenging situation will lead CCA to downsize the staff team beginning in January 2012. At the same time, this situation encourages the staff in program implementation to work creatively and in closer cooperation with member churches and councils. This

approach can make a significant impact in building and strengthening the sense of ownership of the CCA members.

The General Secretary has appointed two new Consultants and one Program Assistant. Dr. Alpinus Kambodji from the East Java Evangelical Church, Indonesia, was appointed as Consultant for HIV and AIDS Program for two years, beginning 1 January 2012. Ms. Susan Jacob from the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in India, was appointed as Consultant for Communications for two years, beginning 1 January 2012. In responding to the need of JID to have additional staff to implement its programs that have available financial support, Ms. Janejinda Pawadee of the Church of Christ in Thailand was appointed as Program Assistant for the period of one year effective 1 December 2011.

B. RELATIONSHIPS

B. 1. Visits to CCA Members

Visits to member churches and councils were more intentional as a way to strengthen relationships with CCA members. Those were visits responding to the invitation of members to attend their important events, or visit initiated by the CCA in collaboration with member councils and/or churches. The General Secretary attended the general synod of the Toraja Church on July 19-29, 2011. Following that, she visited 7 (seven) CCA member churches in North Sumatera, Indonesia, namely: Batak Karo Protestant Church (GBKP) in Kabanjahe, Batak Christian Protestant Church (HKBP) in Tarutung, Protestant Christian Church in Angkola (GKPA), Indonesia Methodist Church (GMI) in Medan, Indonesia Christian Church (HKI) in Pematang Siantar, Indonesia Christian Protestant Church (GKPI) in Pematang Siantar and Protestant Christian Church in Simalungun (GKPS) also in Pematang Siantar. The visits were organized by Rev. Gomar Gultom, General Secretary of PGI and a member of the CCA General Committee. Although members' headquarters are located in one province, the distance from each other is quite far. CCA is grateful for the hospitality of the visited member churches, including paying the domestic travel expenses of the General Secretary. Following that, she visited the Protestant Christian Church (GKP) in Bandung. She thanked the leadership of GKP for their plan to hold a fund raising event for CCA.

The General Secretary attended the 175th Anniversary of the Reformation of Mar Thoma Church on August 20, 2011, in Tiruvalla, Kerala, India. Rev. Dr. Olaf Tveit, the General Secretary of WCC, was keynote speaker. The presence of CCA representative in such special event for CCA members was appreciated and seen as a sign of care and fellowship with the rest of the members of CCA.

Thereafter the General Secretary visited two member churches in Kerala, namely, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (MOSCI) and Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church (MJSOC). She met His Holiness, the Patriarch of the MOSCI and His Beatitude, Mor Baselius Thomas I, the Catholicose of MJSOC. For the Mar Thoma Church and MOSCI the last visit of the leadership of CCA was in 1998 when the General Committee of CCA was held in Kerala which was hosted by the Mar Thoma Church. The Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church appreciated the first visit of the CCA General Secretary. The General Secretary then visited its seminary and met with H.G. Dr. Kuriakose Mor Theophilose Metropolitan, the Bishop in residence and

Rev. Dr. Adai Jacob Corepiscopa, the Principal of the Seminary. She had a brief dialogue with students and faculty members where she introduced CCA and its ministry.

Communications Consultant Dr. Liza Lamis visited the Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa (GMIM or the Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa), on October 29, 2011. She also represented CCA to the 77th anniversary celebration of GMIM on October 30, where a worship service attended by around 300 faithful at Tondano Centrum Church was held. It was also an occasion that marked GMIM's 25 years of partnership with the *Evangelische Kirche in Hesse und Nassau* in Germany (EKHN).

GMIM is the second biggest Protestant church in Indonesia with a membership of 756,000. Visiting around 800 congregations in the seven regions of North Sulawesi is a big challenge for its leadership. Another emerging concern for GMIM is responding to the increasing number of People Living with HIV (PLWH+). GMIM is working hand in hand with the Indonesian government, the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI), and with some dedicated volunteers in tackling HIV and AIDS.

Visits to the headquarters of a member church is something special as for most if not all of them, it was the first visit of the CCA General Secretary to their headquarters. For the CCA staff it was also a great opportunity to learn and understand each CCA member, their ministries and challenges, and to meet with more church leaders. Through these visits members renew their commitment to CCA and reaffirm their responsibility to CCA despite the fact that some of them also struggle to find resources to support their own ministries.

The General Secretary attended the general convention of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) held on 21-24 November 2011 in Batac, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, with the theme, "Holding High the Tapestry of Justice and Peace in a Broken World." Again, it was an opportunity to learn about the life and ministry of the CCA members in the Philippines, and to meet with their leadership. One of the highlights of the convention was the adoption of the Policy on HIV and AIDS, in which the CCA HIV and AIDS program supported the process of preparing the draft policy.

B. 2. Wider Ecumenical Relationships

One of the highlights of the General Secretariat program in the second half of 2011 is on strengthening ecumenical relationship with other ecumenical organizations.

B. 2. a. International Women's Summit - World YWCA

On request of the World YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) and ICCO - Kirk en Actie, CCA Communications Consultant Dr. Liza Lamis, as volunteer Advisor on Feminist Theologies of the World YWCA, was invited to facilitate and serve as resource person during the International Women's Summit on July 11- 13, 2011 in Zurich, Switzerland. She facilitated and gave a synthesis on the break-out session on "Young Feminist Theologians' Perspectives on Sexual, Reproductive and Human Rights, HIV and Violence Against Women (VAW)", and presented a Theological Reflection on Violence and Justice in another group session together with the World Day of Prayer women from the U.K.

She afterwards attended the 27th World YWCA Council Meeting on July 14 – 16, 2011, also in Zurich. On July 17 – 19, she and her group of young women theologians from Romania, Indonesia and Argentina proceeded to Geneva where the world headquarters of YWCA is located, to familiarize themselves further with the work of YWCA, and to explore possibilities in helping the YWCA articulate its feminist theologies. Dr. Lamis learned from the officers and staff of YWCA that it is important for YWCA to articulate its feminist theology/ies in its attempt to mobilize women to create a safe world for women especially for the young. ICCO – Kirk in Actie, also an ecumenical partner of CCA, is supporting the World YWCA this endeavor.

In 2009 CCA also gladly ‘shared’ Dr. Lamis to the YWCA Regional Training Institute in Bali, Indonesia, where she facilitated four morning worships and theological conversations on VAW, HIV and AIDS, and Sexual and Reproductive Rights. That collaboration work started the partnership between CCA and the World YWCA.

B. 2. b. World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly Planning Committee Meeting

As a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly Planning Committee (APC), the General Secretary participated in its meeting held in Busan, South Korea on September 26-October 2, 2011. The meeting was held at the Busan International Convention Center, the venue of the WCC Assembly in 2013.

It was a great opportunity to understand the Korean context and to engage the leaders of the Korean churches and the local organizing committee. The APC provided ample space in the planning of the assembly for the sharing of the Korean cultural and spiritual heritage and its richness, and the experiences of Korean churches in their life and ministry. As this assembly will be held in Asian soil, the input from Asian contextual theological reflections related to the theme “*God, lead us to justice and peace*” was expected and deemed highly important.

B. 2. c. The Second World Gathering of the Global Christian Forum (GCF)

The second world gathering of the GCF was held in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, on October 4-7, 2011, under the theme, “*Together in Jesus Christ: Empowered by the Holy Spirit.*” The meeting was attended by 287 participants including 18 young adults, and coming from 65 countries. The General Secretary attended this meeting together with Dr. Liza Lamis, CCA Consultant for Communications who was coopted as member of the communication team of the GCF.

The highlights of the meeting included regular prayer and worship reflecting on a deep hunger for unity in Christ in the midst of a fragmented world and the division of Christian churches. The sharing, discussions, trust building between Christian groups who rarely meet together was as wide and varied as the global Christian faiths - African Instituted, Anglican, Charismatic, Evangelical, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Protestant, Roman Catholic and contemplative communities. The open space was experienced as a gift of God. One of the poignant moments of the four-day experience was a panel presentation of churches that have experienced healing and reconciliation in Christ.

The GCF renewed its commitment as reflected in its final statement: “We know that God’s Spirit draws the body of Christ into unity for the sake of God’s mission in the world. So we commit ourselves to nurture the Global Christian Forum, as the Spirit leads, as witness to God’s saving and transforming love.”

It was encouraging that commitments to have such forum in the local, national and regional levels were expressed. In the final session the Indonesian churches, inspired by their experiences at the gathering launched the Indonesian Christian Forum which consisted of the Evangelical, Pentecostal, Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, as well as the existing ecumenical organizations of Indonesian Churches, the Communion of Churches in Indonesia.

Some countries in Asia like Malaysia had already a similar inter-faith forum. In 1995 the Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU) was initiated by CCA and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC). Gradually the Evangelicals and Pentecostals have been invited to participate in the various AMCU programs.

B. 2. d. Ecumenical Advocacy Coordination Meeting

CCA was invited to participate in the Ecumenical Advocacy Coordination meeting held in New York on October 3-4, 2011. Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri, General Secretary of the Malaysia Council of Churches and a member of CCA Executive Committee represented CCA to this important meeting. Organized jointly by the Ecumenical UN Office in New York and Action of Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, the meeting aimed to map the advocacy priorities of the participating organizations; explore different possible ways of coordination and cooperation around specific issues and countries by analyzing best practices; and agree on a strategic division of labors and ways of working together at the national, regional and global levels in the coming year(s) around a limited number of countries and/or issues.

B. 2. e. Joint Working Group (JWC) Meeting of the WCC

As a member of the Joint Working Group (JWC) of the WCC, the General Secretary attended its meeting with the Pontifical Council of Christian Unity of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) on November 1-5, 2011, in Malta. The meeting was the last of a series since the WCC Assembly in 2007 held in Porto Allegre. It finalized the documents to be presented to the assemblies of each parent body, the WCC and the RCC. The documents included "Reception" and "The Roots of Ecumenical Spirituality", as well as two papers responding to the issues of "Migrant Workers" and "Youth".

B.2. f. Visits to ICCO - Kerk in Actie and Brot fur die Welt

On the way to Malta, the General Secretary spent a few days in Europe visiting two of the CCA ecumenical partners, namely: ICCO and Kerk in Actie in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and Brot fur die Welt in Stuttgart, Germany. It was an opportunity to have known them better, especially to have updated the changes that took place in each organization, and renewed commitments for collaboration in addressing common concerns in Asia today.

These various ecumenical activities and cooperative work as shared above indicate the new emerging landscape of ecumenical collaboration. The importance of providing space for all was crucial for Christians to be able to respond to the call of the Spirit for the manifestation of unity of the body of Christ. The dramatic challenges that we are facing in the changing world of today requires us to review the way we used to define and do our ecumenical work. The wall of prejudice even sometimes hostility within the Christian family are challenged tremendously. It is only the grace of God that enables

the churches to come together in humility to repent and reconcile with each other for the common call to proclaim the Gospel in our world today.

B.2. g. Sixteenth Annual Bishops' Meet of FABC – Office of Social Communication

Dr. Liza Lamis represented CCA to the 16th Bishops' Meet of the FABC – Office of Social Communication (FABC-OSC) in Hualien, Taiwan, on November 14-19, 2011, with the theme, "Social Media for Evangelization." The use of SM would be more beneficial for CCA's ministry as communication is made faster, easier and cheaper.

If used wisely, social networking can contribute to the satisfaction of humanity's desire for meaning, truth and unity. It can foster solidarity and unity; facilitate dialogue and positive relations; allows sharing in the context of personal exchanges. Social Media users must be honest, open, responsible and respectful of others.

Additionally, the use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) is encouraged for churches to maximize. The use of FOSS is much easier and convenient, cheaper and the software can be manipulated to suit to an institution's needs.

B.3. Interfaith relationships: the Preparatory Meeting for a Conference of Islamic and Christian Religious Leaders of Asia

This program which aims to foster relationships between Muslim and Christian Leaders in order to respond together to the common issues in Asia is one of the initiatives of CCA and FABC. The first meeting which was basically for brainstorming was held on 16 January 2011. In addition to the representatives of CCA (Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang and Dr. Hope Antone) and FABC (Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Fr. Bill LaRousse and Sr. Clement), the meeting was also attended by a Muslim representative from the Philippines and another one from Bangladesh. After some explorations, it was decided that Indonesia will be the venue of this program. The Indonesian Bishops' Conferences (KWI) together with the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) agreed to host this meeting and exert effort to include representatives of Muslim leaders in the planning stage.

Then, another preparatory meeting was held in Jakarta on 19 December 2011, attended by representatives 7 (seven) representatives of Muslims, 9 (nine) representatives of FABC/KWI and 6 (six) representatives of CCA/PGI. CCA was represented by Rev. Retno Ngapon, Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri and Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang. It was decided that the name of the Conference is: *"The Second Conference of Muslim-Christians Religious Leaders of Asia"* with the theme: *"Bring the Common Word to Common Action for Justice and Peace in Asia"*. The objectives include:

1. To know and understand the letter of 138 Muslim scholars from the religious and cultural perspectives of Catholics, Muslims and Protestants in Asia.
2. Through an interactive process to share respectfully with each assembly participant this knowledge and understanding.
3. To share in the same respectful manner the diverse ways Love of God and Love of Neighbor has been practiced by Asian Muslims, Catholics and Protestants including its diverse effects.
4. To discuss the possibility of common collaboration in the implementation of this divine mandate within the Asian context especially with the marginalized and poor sector of society.

5. To promote deeper personal friendship among religious leaders.

B. 4. Meeting of the Working Committee of the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) in Pnom Penh, Cambodia, 3-4 December 2011

Realizing the importance of building and strengthening religious cooperation in a pluralistic Asian context, in 2003 CCA and the Asia Alliance of YMCA with the support of the EED Germany launched a program called the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF). The aim of ICF is to support an Asian regional interfaith movement for just peace and transformation that supports the struggles of marginalized communities for justice; confronts the roots of violence; and promotes justice in the economic, political, and social spheres. The focus of ICF's activities is on Asia's youth as ICF recognizes the important role that the youth must play in building this movement. The school of Peace (SOP) is a major activity of ICF. Other activities have evolved out of SOP in response to specific needs of the SOP participants.

The working committee whose members consist of representatives from CCA, YMCA, alumni of SOP and staff met regularly to evaluate the ongoing programs and plan new programs. A meeting was held in Pnom Penh, Cambodia on 3-4 December 2011. The General Secretaries of CCA and Asia Alliance YMCA attended this meeting, which evaluated the second phase of the programs covering the years 2009 to 2011, and developed a program plan for the third phase covering the year 2012 to 2014.

C. ASIA SUNDAY 2012

The liturgy material for Asia Sunday 2012 with the theme, "Make Us Reconcilers, O God" has been prepared by a staff team composed of Dr. Hope Antone, Mr. Carlos Ocampo and Dr. Liza Lamis. It was already circulated to the CCA members and ecumenical partners in November 2011. It is hoped that the commemoration of the 55th anniversary of CCA in 2012, which is the Asia Sunday itself, can be celebrated by CCA members and related organizations. There is a special request to CCA members to integrate the anniversary celebration in their church calendar in 2012, to translate the Asia Sunday material into the local languages, to circulate it widely and encourage local congregations to celebrate the 2012 Asia Sunday. Asia Sunday for 2012 falls on 20 May, following the tradition to hold it a week before Pentecost. However, members can adjust the date to suit their church calendar. A special offering that could be collected on this occasion will go to CCA Emergency Fund.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

The CCA Newsmagazine was issued once in four months in 2011. It was decided that it will be a paid subscription starting January 2012 to cover the increasing costs of printing and posting.

We are still finding ways to upgrade the CCA website to make it more interactive, attractive and user friendly. Additionally, we are scouting for a volunteer webmaster to handle the CCA website professionally. We at the staff level have tried to make the website contents up to date as much as possible. The e-Letter was released regularly once a month.

An important challenge of communication and information technology that CCA should seriously consider is the use of Social Media (SM) in communicating its work and ministry to its members and networks. The use of SM makes communication faster, more interactive, low-cost, and can be managed by anyone (no need for a professional).

E. LIBRARY

During this period, the work on improving the system in CCA Library has been continued, primarily on cataloguing the books and made it accessible for wider readers. As the CCA Library is now online it is now more accessible and useful for members and friends. Connecting is quite easy by just visiting the CCA website: www.cca.org.hk following the link to library.

F. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

F. 1. Emergency Fund

Asia is continuously hit by various natural disasters such as floods in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and the recent prolonged one in Thailand; typhoon in the Philippines and Vietnam; earthquake in Nepal and India; draught in China and North Korea, landslide in China. Many people were killed and properties and lands were destroyed. As we are increasingly impacted by various ecological problems, we as churches are called more than ever to work for the healing of all creation. Further, communal conflicts and wars continue to happen in various places that caused massive internally displacement of people and refugees.

When calamities happen, CCA sends a pastoral letter to the churches in the affected area and calls the attention of member churches and councils to lift up the victims in their prayers and to show their tangible support as an expression of solidarity to the affected communities. We are glad that some churches respond positively to this appeal. Some churches send their financial support directly to the churches/national council of churches in the affected area. Few other churches sent their support through CCA Emergency Fund and these contributions had been forwarded to: Japan, Thailand, Pakistan and the Philippines.

F. 2. HIV and AIDS Program

F. 2. a. Building HIV Competent Churches and Communities

CCA started the implementation of the three-year project on Building HIV Competent Churches and Communities funded by the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. and the World Council of Churches. The project has three components:

- 1) Ecumenical Collaboration and Interfaith Networking
- 2) Capacity Building of Religious Leaders and Lay People
- 3) Strengthening HIV Competent Communities

The Capacity Building of Religious Leaders and Lay People was conducted in Yangon, Myanmar on June 18-24, 2011. A dynamic core of 50 knowledgeable and skilful religious leaders and lay people are now involved in organizing seminars/for a/workshops in their own countries. They are expected to develop HIV policy,

memorandum of agreements with network partners on program for the community, people living with HIV and AIDS and other vulnerable beneficiary-partners, and build HIV competent churches using the Benchmark Assessment tool developed by the WCC. They are also expected to develop a supportive interfaith and ecumenical environment in their countries through collaboration, networking and alliance building to respond to the needs of communities, people living with HIV and AIDS and other vulnerable beneficiary partners.

From July to December of 2011, the following activities were organized:

*Pre ICAAP Interfaith Dialogue on the theme, “Diverse Voices, United Action”
BEXCO, Busan, South Korea, August 23-26, 2011*

The main objective of the interfaith conference on “Diverse Voices, United Action” is to learn from and contribute to the Asia Pacific response to issues related to sustainable society. The pre-congress will provide an opportunity for participants to explore the challenges HIV and AIDS poses to people of faith, evaluate action taken and plan strategies required to put faith into action in the AIDS response.

The interfaith conference provided participants with an opportunity:

- To bring the different religions and spiritual traditions together to acknowledge the closeness of their spiritual values and their commitment to inter-religious cooperation.
- to exchange individual or collective experiences to deepen understanding of the values of religious diversity and to learn to “live together” better
- to reanimate Asian religious and cultural heritage, to preserve human dignity, and to promote justice for the suffering people in the Asia-Pacific region
- To discuss mutual views on social and health especially HIV and AIDS issues and develop common ways to foster the spirit of reconciliation.
- To engage with key affected populations on cutting edge issues on HIV and AIDS.

Participants

Participants	Number
1. CCA	15
2. Catholic	4
3. Protestant	4
4. Muslim	4
5. Buddhist	4
6. Hindu	4
7. Korean	20
8. Other partners, i.e. INERELA+, CAM, UCC-GM, etc.	24
Total Participants	79

A Conference Declaration was issued that was posted at the CCA website.

There were 79 participants in the Interfaith Conference on HIV and AIDS coming from different faith traditions (Protestants, Anglican, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Buddhist, Sikh, Muslim, and Hindu) and Non-government organizations from around Asia responding to HIV and AIDS. Sixteen of the participants were supported by CCA.

Interfaith Collaboration

Siem Reap, Cambodia, October 29-30, 2011

The steering group formed in Busan, South Korea met at Siem Reap, Cambodia on October 29-30, 2011, to share interfaith experiences with the participants of Kampuchean Christian Council Seminar on Building HIV Competent Churches and to conceptualize further the collaboration, alliance building and networking on issues surrounding people living with HIV. Plans for creating safe spaces for dialogue with key affected population, which started in Busan during the 10th ICAAP were discussed and included into the framework for action.

The result of the meeting was the development of a conceptual framework for interfaith collaboration and a reiteration of the important roles of country interfaith networks. The steering group also decided to register the Asian Interfaith Network on AIDS and appreciated CCA's role for nurturing the organization since its formation in 2005.

The interfaith networks are committed to the global plan of "Getting to Zero" (Zero stigma and discrimination; Zero HIV New Infections, and Zero New AIDS Related Deaths). The mission is to work together with people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS to live a dignified life within society, to build caring communities, ensuring promotion and protection of human rights with the support from governmental, non-governmental agencies, organizations, international agencies and multi-sectoral organizations.

To attain this mission, the following goals were agreed upon:

- 1) To build the capacity of religious leaders and faith-based organizations to evolve an effective response to HIV and AIDS especially the elimination of stigma and discrimination and effective lobbying and advocacy and integrated prevention, treatment, care and spiritual support.
- 2) To facilitate consultation and dialogue with faith leaders on common platform of actions.
- 3) To create safe spaces for dialogue with key populations.
- 4) To encourage the formation of national interfaith HIV and AIDS networks at all Asia and Pacific country levels to have a concerted and coordinated effort to help change the trajectory of the global HIV and AIDS.
- 5) To build networking and alliance building based on common platform of action to work together to build caring communities, ensure the protection of human rights of people living with HIV and AIDS and key affected populations.

Strategic Actions

In the coming years, the Asian Interfaith network on AIDS will:

- Build Capacity on lobbying and advocacy, prevention methodologies

- Enhanced Dialogue and Consultation with faith leaders
- Encourage formation of national interfaith HIV and AIDS networks at all Asia and Pacific country levels
- Expand and inspire membership of AINA
- Intensify networking and alliance building with groups having common platforms of action
- Advocate and lobby policy makers in religious groups, governments, and intergovernmental organization to support the commitment to Get to Zero
- Mobilize resources for AIDS work

The Singapore Interfaith Network on AIDS (SINA) was formed through the initiative of Reverend Dr. Yap Kim Hao in Singapore on November 5, 2011. Encouragement for the formation of the Cambodia Interfaith Network on AIDS was also discussed in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Learning and Recommendations

1. It is important to create a supportive ecumenical and interfaith environment in the country and/or region for greater collaboration, networking and alliance building to respond to the needs of communities, people living with HIV and AIDS and other vulnerable beneficiaries.
2. Resources can be maximized and shared.
3. Faith-based Organizations become more credible if they work together.

Participation of CCA in the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, BEXCO, August 26-31, 2011

Pastor Pornsawan Khankaew and Dr. Erlinda N. Senturias were supported by CCA in their participation in the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP). This provided them the experience of engaging with world leaders (Dr. Michel Sidibe, Director of UNAIDS and Dr. Christoph Benn, Partnership Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; create space for dialogue with key affected population; participate in the Mentoring Program for the New Generation; attended plenary sessions to update participants on the current news on HIV and AIDS, faith-based sharing on Channels of Hope and skills building training for young people.

Pastor Pornsawan Khankaew and Dr. Erlinda Senturias joined exposure program on HIV programs in Korea. The following programs were visited: 1) Haeundae-gu Community Health Center that provides free anonymous HIV testing, supporting programs for PLHIV+, Introductions on AIDS education and public relations; 2) Dongnam Institute of Radiological and Medical Science; 3) Korean Alliances to Defeat AIDS – KADA, which established a headquarter in Seoul in 1993 and organized 11 branches nationwide; 4) Ivan Stop HIV and AIDS Project (ISHAP), a VCT service for gay male/MSM founded in Seoooul in 2003 and in Busan in 2006.

Two PLHIV+ gave their witness while we were in a bus. Both men shared their experience of stigma and discrimination and found it difficult to come out in the open in a very closed society as Korea.

The next International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will take place in Bangkok on August 2013. CCA should play a role in bringing in the best practices from Building HIV Competent Churches into the Congress and in the pre-conference interfaith activities.

F. 2. b. Strengthening HIV Competent Communities

The Seminar on Building HIV Competent Churches took place in four countries from September to December.

The trainings took place in the following places:

- 1) National Council of Churches in the Philippines, Bishop La Verne D. Mercado Ecumenical Center, September 14-16, 2011 followed by Writeshop on HIV Policy in October and Presentation of the HIV Policy during the Pre Assembly of Women and Youth prior to the 23rd General Convention, November 18-19, 2011 and the passing of the HIV Policy on “Creating Nurturing Communities of Care with People Living with HIV and AIDS” at PhilRice Building, Batac City, Ilocos Norte on November 24, 2011. The Member Churches shared what they are already doing on HIV and AIDS but the competency is lacking in all of the member churches. They showed their commitment towards the HIV and AIDS Ministry through their unanimous approval of the NCCP Quadrennial Plan from 2012-2015. A Women’s Crisis Center is planned to be established in General Aguinaldo, Cavite to respond to women who have been abused.

- 2) National Council of Churches-Bangladesh, Retreat Center, Savar, Dhaka, October 13-15, 2011. In 2006, NCCB published a booklet entitled, “Be Aware on HIV AIDS Prevention!” containing Awareness guide, relevant Bible studies and liturgical guide on HIV AIDS. However, it was observed by NCCB that at present the Churches in Bangladesh are not yet focused on HIV/AIDS issue and there are few activities in the Church based development Organizations. Although some activities related to HIV/AIDS have been undertaken by the national and inter-national development Organization, which have some link with the churches, these are not enough to address the greater issue of HIV/AIDS. The seminar addressed the need to recognize and rediscover the role of churches in HIV/AIDS issue in the context of Healing Ministry of Churches.

The seminar sensitized the church people and leaders on HIV AIDS and equipped the participants with negotiation skills and making ethical choices through role play and theological input. There were 30 participants, 2 representing the ecumenical youth and only three were women. The rest were men representing the 13 NCCB member churches. The workshop was organized by the Department of Medical Services of NCCB. The resource persons Dr. Wati Longchar (Professor & Dean of Serampore Theology College), Mrs. Keiko Butterworth (HIV specialist of Myanmar Catholic Congregation), Dr. Martin Hirok Chowdhury (Moderator Dept. of Medical Services-NCCB), Ms.

Satara Jannat (Coordinator of Ashar Alo Society) and Rev. David A. Das (General Secretary, NCCB) delivered their speeches on various areas of subject topics.

- 3) Kampuchean Christian Council (KCC), New Angkorland Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 27-30 October 2011. KCC had sent several participants to attend the training on HIV /AIDS awareness provided by CCA and joined other NGOs working with these Campaign programs to stop new infections of HIV. Some local churches of KCC reported on the presence of PLHIV+ in their congregation. This experience challenged their understanding of God and human persons. Church teaching tends to equate AIDS to sin. Questions were raised on whether there is a need to help people who sin. The Bible Study on the healing of the Centurion's slave was raised to help the participants recognize the inclusive love of Christ for all. The participants are quite new to HIV and AIDS. The presence of established AIDS organizations in Cambodia such as the Salvation Centre Cambodia and Cambodian HIV/AIDS Education and Care will help develop the inner and outer competency on HIV and AIDS. A strategic plan was developed for at least 30 churches in Cambodia to be HIV competent. The benchmark assessment tool will be used to check on the competence on HIV of the member churches of the Kampuchean Christian Council. More accompaniment is needed to ensure capacity building of KCC members.
- 4) Pattaya Seminar on Building HIV Competent Churches, Villa Navin, Jomtiem Beach Meeting Room on November 29-December 2, 2011. For the first time, the seminar on Building HIV Competent Churches was organized and led by a Pastor Living with HIV, Pastor Pornsawan Khankaew, who herself experienced stigma and discrimination from her own family, church and circle of friends when she was first diagnosed with HIV 14 years ago. Pastor Pornsawan is pastor of Adonai Church and is deeply committed to Getting to Zero Discrimination. Thirty participants attended the seminar. Some of the participants come from the Islands of Thailand. Some are pastors and majority are lay people. All come from evangelical churches in Chonburi Province. One pastor is a Presbyterian representing The Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT). One activity that was particularly helpful in understanding Stigma and Discrimination, was the workshop led by an elder living with HIV from CCT. The participants joined in World AIDS Day (December 1) after their exposure program in the Glory Hut Foundation and Baan Jing Jia Foundation. Both organizations are active in serving the needs of PLHIV+ for shelter, nutrition, food, and other support and caring ministries making sure that they overcome their own self stigma and overcome the discrimination from Churches.

The indicator for the effectiveness of these seminars would be the identification of 200 communities and faith-based organizations and individuals who advocate and perform reasonable services for PLHIV+.

ECUMENICAL FORMATION, GENDER JUSTICE AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT (EGY)

Ms. Moumita Biswas, Joint Executive Secretary

A. ECUMENICAL CREATIVE WORKSHOP OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Ecumenical Creative Workshop of Youth and Students in Asia and the Pacific based on the theme, 'Justice and Peace Now!' was held in Tao Fong Shan, Hong Kong, on 25- 31 July 2011. Twenty-five youth leaders from CCA member churches and EASY Net participated.

The workshop aimed to:

1. create a common platform for youth church leaders/students from Asia and the Pacific to articulate and demonstrate peace and justice concerns through alternative creative art forms;
2. develop theological understanding to uphold and affirm life in its fullness in the context of an unjust society (world);
3. strengthen revive/revitalize Asian youth ecumenical networking and promote youth involvement in prophetic ministry of peace, justice, healing and reconciliation;
4. and produce a resource material/book to be used to help mobilize and revitalize ecumenical youth groups in grassroots communities and local churches especially as we are commemorating the International Year of the Youth.

Creative workshops on dance and spirituality for justice were facilitated by Dr. Rommel Linatoc and Julian from the Christian Dance Fellowship in Malaysia and Dr Valli Bachelor. Rev Ken Seng Chong, a famous Christian artist working with indigenous communities and youth facilitated an art therapy, healing and reconciliation workshop where the youth shared their own stories of violence and brokenness and the power within them to heal communities through creative ways.

Rev. Bharat Raj Patta, General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) in India, Ms Necta Montes, Regional Secretary of World Student Christian Federation – Asia Pacific (WCSF-AP) facilitated the creative participatory Bible studies using Asian contextual hermeneutics in re-reading the Bible. The youth themselves also did a group creative Bible study where they used Taichi and dance and traditional Asian indigenous spirituality to reinterpret different dimensions of peace.

Participants shared how they celebrated the International Year of the Youth and their efforts advocating for recognition of the youth participation in the decision making processes in church and society. They also shared about how in their context the youth play a crucial role in weaving peace amidst violence and various issues that impact the youth.

Outcome

The participants firmed up plans for the Asian Students Youth gathering to be held in 2012 where more than 150 youth are expected. The Asian Students and Youth

Gathering or ASYG is the EASY Net's youth gathering and forum held every four years. Since CCA is part of EASY Net it plays a crucial role in this plan.

B. NETWORKING

During this period, strengthening the networks with related organizations, continued. Such organizations including: the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC), Asian Church's Women Conference (ACWC), members of the EASY Net (Christian Youth and Students Organizations in Asia Pacific), ecumenical organizations, such as WCC, as well as Youth and Women constituencies of CCA member churches and councils.

FAITH, MISSION AND UNITY (FMU)

Dr. Hope S. Antone, Joint Executive Secretary
Rev. Dr. Sung Kook Park, Joint Executive Secretary

A. ECUMENICAL LECTURES AND CHURCH VISITS

Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand

5-11 July 2011

A series of ecumenical lectures and church visits was conducted by CCA FMU joint executive secretary Dr. Hope S. Antone in Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand in July. The visits achieved several purposes including to do a seminar with the ministerial students of the Presbyterian Church in ANZ and to express solidarity to member churches in view of the earthquakes that hit Christchurch in September 2010 and February 2011 and to listen to what the churches are doing in response to the emergency. Other programs were conducted to maximize the visit in Auckland, e.g. a talk with Methodist women on 5 July on “The Role of Women in Developing and Promoting Ecumenism” and some other invited women; and another talk with an ecumenical gathering on 6 July on “Towards a Wider Ecumenical Vision.” The seminar with Presbyterian ministerial students was held on 7 July as an activity during their winter course in Auckland. The visits to Christchurch included listening to a Panel on Churches’ Response to Emergency on July 9. Four speakers on the topic, “*After the earthquake, churches working together*” were Katrina Hill of Christian World Service, Bob Anderson of St. Ambrose Church, Bob Turnbull of the Baptist Church, and Michael Earle of the Anglican Church. Hope Antone made her response to the speakers by weaving several issues related to wider ecumenism and the challenges posed by the earthquakes. The visits were a good opportunity to reconnect with former EACC/CCA staff and officers from ANZ and a time to celebrate and affirm their important role in the ecumenical movement. It is also good practice to hold visits and do ecumenical lectures in places where it has been difficult to hold programs due to high costs involved. For more details on the lectures and visits, see *CCA News* (August 2011), pp. 22-23.

B. NETWORKING AND ECUMENICAL LECTURES

1. Association of Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA)

12-15 July 2011

CCA-FMU Joint Executive Secretary Dr. Hope S. Antone was one of the resource persons at the Teachers’ Academy of the Association of Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) held on July 12-15, 2011 at Bangkok Institute of Theology in Thailand. She did sessions and facilitated workshops on approaches/methodologies of teaching and classroom assessment. The Teachers’ Academy is an annual program of ATESEA aimed to: (1) enrich the participants’ knowledge and skills in the areas of teaching methodologies, current trends and other issues in theological education; (2) provide them with opportunities to share their experiences in the academe and community involvement with other participants; and (3) update them on the major thrusts of ATESEA so that they too would echo the works of the Association to their schools and potential supporters of ATESEA. Thirty (30) theology faculty members with 10 years and below of teaching experiences participated in the academy. They

came from Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Providing ecumenical lectures at an existing program of ATESEA is a good way of networking with theological education associations in the region.

**2. PERSETIA (Association of Theological Schools in Indonesia)
UKSW, Salatiga, Indonesia
25-29 July 2011**

CCA-FMU Joint Executive Secretary Dr. Hope S. Antone was one of the resource persons at the Summer School for Graduate Students of the Association of Theological Schools in Indonesia (PERSETIA) held at the Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana in Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia. She gave a series of presentations (lectures) on Wider Ecumenism to a group of 40 graduate students. The two-week Summer School is an annual program of PERSETIA to expose graduate students of member schools to scholars and scholarship from overseas in order to enrich their studies in Indonesian theological education institutions. Other lecturers at this year's Summer School came from the United States of America and Australia. Providing ecumenical lectures at an existing program of PERSETIA is another good way of networking with theological education associations in the region.

C. ECUMENICAL FORMATION

1. Asian Ecumenical Course 2011

Chiang Mai, Thailand

29 August-10 September 2011

The region-wide Asian Ecumenical Course equipped 20 younger ecumenical leaders in Asia through basic ecumenical formation with a wider ecumenical vision, living in community, tools of analysis of Asian reality and leadership skills and particularly to hone the leadership skills of the younger ecumenical generation for the ministry of prophesying, reconciling and healing in Asia. The 20 participants (10 women, 10 men; 12 were below 30 years old) came from Bangladesh, Aotearoa New Zealand, Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, and Cambodia. Four other participants (2 from India, 1 from Bangladesh, 1 from Aotearoa New Zealand) could not come due to circumstances beyond their control – e.g. visa problem and a sickness in the family.

Resource persons included CCA staff (Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang – speaker at the opening worship; Ms. Moumita Biswas – Bible study on peace; Mr. Charlie Ocampo – sharing of country realities and churches' ecumenical journeys; Rev. Dr. Sungkook Park – Bible study on interfaith relations; Dr. Liza Lamis – Bible study and input on gender justice; Dr. Erlinda Senturias – input on building HIV competent churches; and Dr. Hope Antone – introduction to CCA and wider ecumenical vision and overall facilitator for the course. Invited speakers included Rev. Dr. Chuleepran Srisoontorn – on Thai realities through exposure trips and briefings; Rev. Prince Devanandan – on Asian reality: issues and trends; Dr. Kyaw Than on ecumenical memory; and Dr. Parichart Suwanbubha on interfaith dialogue and cooperation and conflict transformation and peace building.

For some reflections by participants in response to evaluation questions on the AEC, see *CCA News* (December 2011), pp. 13-14.

**2. Ecumenical Enablers' Training
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
1-5 December 2011**

A third batch of 35 pastors, lay, youth and women leaders from member churches of the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC) attended the Ecumenical Enablers' Training program organized by CCA-FMU on 1-5 December 2011 at Calvary Church in Phnom Penh. This non-formal Ecumenical Theological Education program seeks to address the needs of new and younger members of CCA, especially where there is a lack of ecumenical theological education, where many pastors are self-made or trained non-formally or do not have access to formal theological education. To prevent them from becoming vulnerable to many types of doctrines brought by enterprising missionaries (including anti-ecumenical propaganda) flocking to their countries, CCA has tried to be proactive in equipping pastors, church leaders, youth workers, women leaders and Sunday School teachers for a more holistic sense of the ministry with a perspective of wider ecumenism, and with the lens of Asian contextual theologizing and Asian biblical hermeneutics.

With the theme, "Living Together in the Household of God," the training tried to present the wider ecumenical vision in a way that Cambodian Christian leaders would be able to affirm the vision of living together in the household of God, take responsibility for the brokenness in God's household, and commit to recover the interconnectedness in God's household through their various ministries. Dr. Hope S. Antone, past Joint Executive Secretary of CCA-FMU, did the overall coordination of the training, including giving a general introduction to the theme, "Living Together in the Household of God", perspectives of people of other races and religions, and of people with disability, and sustaining church organizations. Other resource persons and their topics were: CCA General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang, mission perspective of living together in the Household of God; incoming CCA-FMU Executive Secretary Rev. Grace Moon, perspectives of creation and women; and Ms. Janejinda Pawadee, program assistant for CCA-JID, perspectives of people living with HIVAIDS and of children and youth.

In their evaluation comments, the participants hoped that CCA will continue to provide more trainings – and to include topics like youth leadership, Sunday School teaching, agricultural skills, strategies for church development and community development, how to make disabled people live stronger, how to make churches more self-propagating, self-governing and self-dependent.

**D. CONGRESS OF ASIAN THEOLOGIANS
Preparation of the 7th Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS VII)**

The Congress of Asian Theologians which was originally planned to be held in 2011 was postponed to 2012. Preparations for CATS VII went underway, which will be hosted by the Methodist Theological University (MTU) in Seoul, South Korea, on June 30 – July 6, 2012. It carries the theme, "Embracing and Embodying God's Hospitality Today". A visit to the MTU in Korea was held on September 30, 2011, the team was included: (Co-chair of CATS), (Member of FMU Program Area Committee)

Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang (General Secretary of CCA), Rev. Dr. Sungkook Park (FMU Joint Executive Secretary), Rev. Jung Eun Moon, Grace (incoming Executive Secretary of FMU)

Issues at stake to be taken up around the theme are:

- Lord's supper as the locus and expression of divine hospitality; church as an assembly surrounding the table of banquet; Eucharist as a source and expression of unity (and division).
- Word of God heard and spoken from the vantage point of a stranger/guest; problems of interpretation of Scripture from the viewpoints of hosts.
- Discrimination and participation of minorities and oppressed in the church and society; empowerment of people including the disabled, outcast, poor, women, children, migrants, foreigners, inmates, those with contagious disease, etc.
- Promotion of peace and justice, and of reconciliation and healing where necessary, between and within nations and communities to ensure a hospitable environment for all without violence and threats.
- Ecology as the host of living beings; question of science, nature, life and faith.
- Mutual hospitality of religions; receiving God's gifts from other religions.

Details and application form are available from the CCA website.

JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE (JID)

Mr. Carlos Ocampo, Joint Executive Secretary

A. WCC AND CCA CONSULTATION ON ASIAN REALITIES

2 - 4 August 2011

Bangkok, Thailand

Objectives of the Consultation includes:

- 1) Church leaders to discuss current geopolitical realities in Asia;
- 2) To present country situations focused on 5 themes (human rights & democratic governance; migration and migrant workers rights; internally displaced and stateless people; conflict and peace building; and religious intolerance and freedom of religion);
- 3) church representatives recommended that current context be considered in planning and implementing CCA programs.

Participants, resource persons and facilitators:

- 1) Keynote presenter – Dr. Michael Vatikiotis, Visiting Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, and former editor, Far Eastern Economic Review;
- 2) Theme presenters from CCA – Basil Fernando (AHRC), Yin Yin Mau & Shwe Lin (MCC), Carmencita Karagdag (Peace for Life), Charlie Ocampo (CCA JID), and Matthews George Chunakara (WCC);
- 3) Bible study leaders were – Dr. Roger Gaikwad (NCC India), and Dr. Joseph Komar Peter (School of Theology Malaysia);
- 4) Facilitators were Matthews George Chunakara, Charlie Ocampo, Semegenish Asfaw, and Patricia Bruschweiler (WCC).

Participants' evaluation and reflection

- 1) Participants appreciated the overview and perspectives on current geopolitical situation in Asia and the challenges these present to CCA and the Asian churches;
- 2) There was a suggestion for CCA to conduct this type of consultation more regularly to inform and to assist churches in their mission and program planning;
- 3) Participants appreciated the perspectives shared, particularly from Iran and the situation of Christian churches there.

Comments/evaluation of the Consultation

- Situation overview in a fast-changing region as Asia is informative and helpful in identifying program priorities;
- Country reports enabled a participatory and dynamic exchanges of member churches in CCA and to focus on particular areas of work;
- Full participation in both numbers and quality even on short notice;
- Participation in planning and executing programs to consult and plan programs is very important;

- Identification of key participants also contributed to the success of the Consultation;
- This Consultation was a good model of joint leadership, planning and implementation by CCA and WCC.
- Exposure visit to Mae Sot refugee camps was helpful in setting the tone and the context of ecumenical work in the region.

Recommendations for CCA

- ✓ There was a suggestion for CCA to consult its member churches and Councils on a regular periodic basis as a tool for planning its work in Asia.
- ✓ Exposure to local/regional situation important in any CCA program in the region.

B. JID PROGRAM COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETING

4 - 5 August 2011

Bangkok, Thailand

Objectives:

- 1) to implement KL Assembly program mandate;
- 2) to set program direction and priorities in light of staffing and budget.

Participants, resource persons and facilitators

Present were 8 members of JID PAC and 2 church representatives.

Ms Vijula Arulanthan, JID PAC Moderator chaired the meeting; while the undersigned and the CCA GS resourced the discussions. Minutes were taken by the JID executive secretary.

Planning process

The meeting reviewed the CCA Assembly JID Program Review and recommendations in light of the just-concluded Asian Consultation, which provided the context for program planning. The meeting also clarified where the MEPP programs are located in CCA, particularly within JID programs.

Ecumenical concerns discussed

- MEPP programs will be integrated in all the program clusters in CCA, including JID.
- Indigenous people and climate justice
- Water network
- Kashmir
- Kandhamal
- Nuclear power issue
- Human rights – advocacy, documentation, lobbying the UN
 - a. Being aware of particular country contexts and HR procedures (Right to Info Act)
 - b. HR training for 2011 (dysfunctional HR/government institutions), strategy – sub-regional or across Asia? Blasphemy laws in Pakistan (WCC); Country-focused HR training (Sri Lanka, India); Engaging churches ministry in HR (Serampore College, theological seminaries); Sharing of resources between countries (hosting & resource persons); go for wider church representation/participation;

- School of Peace
 - c. CCA School of Peace – equipping churches with peace negotiation skills; give feedback to ICF; strengthen peace perspective; dialogue with other faiths; target participants from conflict situation (Halmahera, Poso, Indonesia) based on particular issues; JID PAC members will assist in following up.
- Advocacy and Internship Program

Send GBGM proposal to PAC members/CCA criteria/guidelines/evaluation; planning budget responsibility of NCC/MOA or contract signed by CCA and NCC concerned; CCA to manage the funds; program does not need an ‘intern’ but a full-time advocacy staff.
- Kashmir Valley – NCCI Beyond Dialogue Program follow up/documentation; follow up of Kandhamal micro-credit programs (CCDB).
- Sharing People’s Stories beyond publication in multi-media format.
- Responding to Emergencies

Emergency fund managed by CCA General Secretariat, practical implementation left to JID staff. It is a solidarity response by CCA. The documentation of program implementation is to be emphasized. NCC General Secretaries can discuss ACT Alliance matters affecting the region.
- Development Management Training is a continuing program for development workers. Not an urgent priority and will be done based on particular requests. Link needs with available resources (CCDB, CASA). One way of responding to new member churches based on a new paradigm of development.
- Migrant workers advocacy
 1. Strengthening churches capacity in responding to migrant workers for both sending and receiving countries.
 2. Opportunities of supporting churches in their work and advocacy on migrant rights.
 3. Facilitating denominational and interchurch networks in refugee work.
 4. Exchanges of workers (e.g., South Asia) with Gulf Churches (REOs) in refugee and migrant work. Discuss with the WCC (former MRIA Program).
 5. Regional migration issue (Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia) in responding to migrant rights
 6. Taking an inventory of churches response to migrant workers. Mapping out destinations and services offered. What problems/issues are faced by migrant? (Asian Migrant Center)
 7. See publication of MRIA and see what the churches can pick up from there.
 8. Small consultation of churches on migrant rights.
 9. Strengthening solidarity visits among indigenous people, Dalits, tribal people.
 10. Intentionally inviting IP in all CCA programs.
 11. Keep IDPs and refugee issues alive in CCA.

Participants’ evaluation and reflection

In light of JID staff structure, program priorities have been identified for the rest of 2011 – the Human Rights Advocates Training, the School of Peace, and one campaign to focus on either ecological justice or migrant rights. 2012 programs will depend on availability of funds and will reflect priorities identified for 2011.

Planning process strengths, weaknesses

- a. the planning meeting was very engaging and participatory;
- b. the JID PAC members were very conscious of CCA's current resource limitation;
- c. JID PAC members offered their time and services whenever needed by CCA staff;
- d. Members expressed concern that program planning should be based on available resources, both personnel and funds.

Recommendations for improvement and follow up

- 1) Regular communications between CCA and JID PAC members;
- 2) Closer program coordination with in-country JID PAC members;
- 3) Budget-based program implementation.

C. ADVOCACY VISIT TO KOREA RE-OPPOSITION TO NAVY BASE

8 - 11 August 2011

NCC Korea, PROK and PCK Headquarters, and Jeju Island

Background and Highlights of the Activity

In response to the request from the Rev. Kim, Young Ju, NCC Korea General Secretary, CCA sent the following to constitute the CCA delegation in support of the Korean churches' opposition to a navy base plan in Jeju Island – the Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad, NCC India General Secretary; Rev. Alistair Macrae, Uniting Church in Australia President; and the undersigned CCA-JID Executive Secretary.

In Seoul, there was a briefing session on the objectives of the campaign at the NCC Korea Office on 8th August in the morning and a de-briefing session after the visit to Jeju Island on 10th August.

In Jeju Island, the delegation was accompanied by representatives from NCCCK, PROK, PCK and the Korean Methodist Church (Rev. Lee Hun Sam, NCCCK; Rev. Shin Seung Min, PROK; Rev. Shin Bog Hyun, Korean Methodist Church; and the Rev. Catherine Christie, from NCCCK & PROK. The team visited the Kangjeong Village, site of the navy base, worshipped with the community, witnessed a confrontation between the village leaders and the police, and attended a candlelight vigil in the evening of 9th August. A short press conference was held after the morning worship on the 9th.

Back in Seoul, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to the PCK Office and met with the Moderator, the Rev. Kim Jung Suh, who grew up and lived in Jeju Island, about their insights of the visit. A longer press conference, attended notably by UCAN and CBS was held in the afternoon of the 11th.

Issues and concerns for CCA

The CCA delegation visit was in response to the request of NCCCK and its member churches, which is an accompaniment role played by CCA and advocacy on issues confronting the member churches, in this case the construction of a navy base in a UNICEF designated biosphere reserve;

The navy base will add more insecurity in the Korean peninsula and will have a negative impact on the prospects for peace and reunification.

This geopolitical issue will be a continuing concern to be addressed by CCA through the Northeast Asia Church Leaders Forum, in which CCA, through its JID Executive Secretary, is a convener.

Recommendations

- 1) To continue supporting the Korean churches' opposition to the navy base and encourage on-going debates among the churches in Korea and the rest of Asia;
- 2) To publicize the navy base issue through CCA forums and publication.

D. 3RD ARTICLE 9 CONFERENCE ON PEACE IN ASIA 5 - 7 October 2011 Okinawa Christian Institute, Naha, Okinawa, Japan

More than 220 people joined exposure groups and participated in the 3rd Article 9 Conference in Naha, Okinawa, Japan on 4th to 7th October 2011. The Okinawa people have expressed their opposition to any new base construction in their island after years of suffering from loss sovereignty, native culture and traditional livelihood as a result of the presence of US bases in their island.

Speakers from Okinawa who grew up with the bases, Buddhist monks, Christian leaders, and a Pakistani human rights advocate took turns in enumerating the negative impact of any new base on the lives of the people and the threat they pose for peace and people's security.

A peace march along the main thoroughfares of Okinawa City was held by the participants carrying banners saying no to wars and yes to peace.

A press conference was held at St Barnabas Anglican Church in Kagurazaka, Tokyo, where nine participants in the Okinawa Conference participated, including Cory Bently, Jonathan Frerichs, Takeda Takao, Junaid Ahmad, Jeong Jin Woo and Charlie Ocampo who spoke about their experiences at the conference as well as Wendy Yamamoto, Liberato Bautista, Debbie Umipig-Julian, Shabnam Ahmad, Jeoung Sang Duk, and Lee Hun Sam who attended. David McIntosh did the English interpretation of the panelists.

There were about 50 in attendance with press from *Ecumenical News International*, *The Christ Weekly*, *Christian Shimbun* (Newspaper), *The Catholic Weekly of Japan* and a number of Buddhist media outlets including *Bukkyo* (Buddhist) *Times*. *The Christ Weekly* published a front page article on Oct. 22nd, which covered the gist of the conference, participating organizations and a rundown of the six demands spelled out in the statement.

The third Conference in Okinawa was organized by the National Council of Churches in Japan and hosted by the Okinawa Christian University. The preceding two Conferences were held in Tokyo in 2007 and Seoul in 2009.

CCA was represented by the Rev. Rex Reyes, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), and Professor Junaid Ahmad, Law and Policy Faculty Member of the Lahore University of Management Sciences. Carlos Ocampo, CCA Executive Secretary for Justice, International Affairs, Development and Service had assisted the holding of the 2nd and 3rd Article 9 Conferences.

E. 51ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Korean Christian Church in Japan
10-12 October 2011
Fukuoka City, Japan

On the invitation of the Rev. Hong, Songwan, General Secretary, Korean Christian Church in Japan, Charlie Ocampo represented the Christian Conference of Asia and gave the greetings on behalf of the CCA General Secretary.

He shared reflections from the 3rd International Conference on Article 9 (of the Japanese Peace Constitution held in Okinawa, where at least 20 representatives came from the churches in Korea and more than 60 representatives came from Japan. That Conference shared the pain and struggles suffered by the Japanese people as a result of the presence of American bases that have become excuses for the growing militarization not only in Japan but the entire northeast Asian region.

It was good to meet with Korean church leaders from the churches in Japan and to note the generous support extended by Korean Christians in the US towards the work of the KCCJ.

F. CCA HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY TRAINING COURSE
17 - 21 October 2011
Bangkok, Thailand

Eleven human rights workers participated in a CCA Human Rights Advocacy Training Course held at the Bangkok Christian Guesthouse in Bangkok's Silom district from 17th to 21st October 2011.

The trainees were nominated by their respective churches and NCCs from Indonesia (5), the Philippines (2), and one each from India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand.

The training in human rights advocacy featured two sessions on Human Rights and the United Nations, human rights documentation, effective advocacy, country national human rights situations, and two sessions of national and regional preparation of human rights advocacy plans.

Mr. Wong Kai Shing emphasized the need to monitor compliance by countries that signed UN human rights conventions and protocols, as a way of making governments responsible for protecting the rights of their own people.

Bible Professor at Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines, the Rev. Revelation Velunta in his biblical reflections on Isaiah 58: 6-7, Matthew 25: 31-46 and Luke 4: 18-19 reminded and challenged the participants that soup is more than food for the hungry and drink for the thirsty. It is also just wages for workers, homes for the homeless, justice for the oppressed, care for the sick and dying, welcome to the stranger, land for the landless, liberation for those in bondage and captivity, solidarity with those whose only hope is God. He shared the vision of abundant life in John 10:10 “as God’s promise of life abundant as a hot bowl of soup. For countless people who face the violence of starvation each and every moment of their lives, God’s shalom is a hot bowl of soup”.

Debbie Stothard and Anelyn de Luna came to the Training Course to discuss effective documentation as a strategic component of human rights advocacy. Ms Stothard shared inspiring insights and experiences in working on advocacy for the Burmese people who have been struggling for their rights for almost thirty years with colorful maps and anecdotes that inspired the participants in the Course.

Stories from Bogor and Kupang in Indonesia, Tarlac and Palawan in the Philippines, Mae Sot in Thailand, Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh in India were shared during the Course. National advocacy plans were made by the participants, and a regional cyberspace website was introduced to enable the trainees to continue communicating their human rights concerns and advocacy with each other.

G. NORTH AMERICAN CONSULTATION ON POVERTY, WEALTH AND ECOLOGY

6 - 11 November 2011

FCJ Center, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

More than 60 church leaders, theologians, and social activists gathered at the FCJ Center in Calgary, Alberta Province in Canada on 6th to 11th November 2011 in a Consultation on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology in North America.

The Consultation issued a call on respective governments to govern with integrity by implementing a moratorium on further development of the tar sands; compelling corporations to operate with the highest available environmental and labour standards wherever they do business on the globe; prohibiting excessive interest rates; legislating an international financial transactions tax to begin to make restitution for ecological debt; reallocating budgets from the military and systems of death and destruction to systems that promote the abundance of life; working for a new financial architecture; and ensuring that commercial banking is clearly separated from investment banking (speculative investments and financial transactions).

The Consultation process went through confession, wisdom, healing and thanksgiving and reflected these in the Consultation Statement. The following are excerpts from the Consultation -

On confession

While we have failed to live out our love, corporations have pursued violent development grabbing air, land and water; drowning islands; desertifying lands; violating human rights; and creating conditions of war.

When temporary foreign workers care for our children and grandparents, work on our farms, receive low wages, work long hours, live and work in harsh conditions, are vulnerable to abuse, have their human rights violated, fill other jobs that the common excuse says “no North American would do.”

On wisdom

There is a new world in the making. You are working on behalf of Your people and restoring the good Earth You created. This world matters as do people’s concrete struggles within it. It is our reminder to care for each other and all of Creation. You are a God of redemption, not of destruction, and invite us to participate in redemptive acts.

On Healing

We are alarmed by the increased concentration of wealth owned by a few. We know that poverty strips dignity away.

On thanksgiving

We give thanks for young people who are inventing new forms of resistance to greed and injustice through forums like the Occupy movement and the “people’s microphone.”

We give thanks for the prophets among us who challenge our idolatry of the unregulated Market and who confront us with our addiction to the carbon economy.

We give thanks for the witness of those of our ancestors who have taught us our rightful place in Creation and who have spoken truth to power; who understood that Christ is found among those who are hungry, homeless, imprisoned and downtrodden.

International sharing and solidarity

Franklin Canelos from the Latin American Council of Churches; Puleng Lengka Bula, from South Africa; Setha Hardessian, Middle East Council of Churches; and Carlos Ocampo of CCA shared their particular encounters on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology.

Exposure encounters include group immersions in Calgary, particularly flying over the tar sands area, aboriginal life and culture, and migrant workers. Major discussions took place on the North American contextual theology, economy and ecology.

Main presentation on North American contextual theology was presented by Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty of Bellarmine University, while the result of the study on economics and its impact on poor communities in North America was undertaken and reported by Dr. John Dillon of KAIROS Canada.

The organizing of the Consultation was provided leadership by a team led by Ms Joy Kennedy, and the WCC AGAPE staff, Dr. Rogate Mshana and Ms Athena Peralta.

**H. UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA GENERAL COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MEETING
12 - 14 November 2011
Church House, Etibioke, Toronto, Canada**

Fifty-three members and corresponding members of the United Church of Canada General Council Executive voted on the proposal to relocate the General Council Office in its morning session on 14th November 2011. This action was a result of a long period of consultations and looking at alternative locations for the last more than a year from its May 2010 meeting.

There is inclination to stay in Toronto carries a strong consideration to touching the ground and more creativity and flexibility in Toronto. This is when the denomination is still dealing with its vision and the transition necessary in the next ten years.

In addition to considering a renewal of the lease on the present location in 3250 Bloor Street West, two other sites are being considered, the Bloor Street United at 300 Bloor Street and the Metropolitan United at 55 Shuter Street in the center of Toronto. Having a sacred and hospitable space is a major consideration. The accommodation task force will report back with a specific recommendation to the sub-executive or executive dependent on the timing.

A reference group in Council has been appointed to progress the preparations for the forthcoming General Council in August 2012.

Other major agenda items in the Meeting include the Moderator Accountability report, the General Secretary supervision, nomination of UCC representatives to the 2013 WCC Assembly in Busan, South Korea and other committees within and outside the UCC, strengthening the ministry to the Francophone the constituency, and pastoral relations, oversight and discipline processes.

In the session on global partners on Sunday morning, 13th November, Carlos Ocampo did a power point presentation on the emerging geopolitical trends in Asia and CCA's role in resourcing and accompanying the Asian churches in conflict situations and invited the churches in Canada's support and solidarity.

**I. NCCP 23RD GENERAL CONVENTION
21 - 24 November 2011
Batac, Northern Philippines**

Church representatives from nine member churches and five associate member organizations gathered at the Philippine Rice Research Center in Batac, Ilocos Norte on 21-24 November 2011 under the theme, "Holding high the tapestry of justice and peace in a broken world".

Main activities of the 23rd Convention include the Report of the General Secretary, Report of the Corporate Treasurer, reports of Committees, business sessions, and election of officers for the 2012-2015 quadrennium.

Officers elected to lead in the 2012-2015 quadrennium are Obispo Maximo Bishop Ephraim Fajutagana of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (PIC); Vice Chairpersons Bishop Reuel Marigza, United Church of Christ in the Philippines; Ms Guia del Rosario, Lutheran Church in the Philippines; and Ms Sheila Marie Cortez, United Methodist Church. Elected Treasurer is Ms Mercedes Kimwell, IEMELIEF; and the Rev. Fr. Rex R.B. Reyes was elected for a second term.

Retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno presented the Bishop La Verne D. Mercado Memorial Lecture entitled “Social Justice in the Philippines: Facts and Law”, tracing the historical developments undergone by the Philippine Constitution of 1935 and 1987, highlighting the critique of the impact of laws on the marginalized and vulnerable sectors in Philippine society.

The Gumersindo Garcia Memorial Lecture was presented by Mr. Carlos Ocampo, Executive Secretary of CCA – JID, tracing the historical journey of Filipinos in their struggle for justice under the theme, “To hunger and struggle for justice – a continuing struggle with the Filipino people”.

The closing worship service and installation of the newly elected officers was held at the IFI Cathedral in Pinili, Ilocos Norte on 24th November.

J. SOLIDARITY TEAM VISITS TO NEPAL AND BANGLADESH AND CONSULTATION ON STATELESS

Nepal and Bangladesh

12-18 December 2011

The World Council of Churches (WCC) was organizing two Solidarity Team Visits to Nepal and Bangladesh from 12 to 16 December 2011 in collaboration with NCC Nepal and NCC Bangladesh. The purpose of the visit is to learn about the situations of stateless people, religious minorities and to express solidarity with the churches and communities in both countries, who are engaged in solidarity, advocacy and ministry to and with stateless people and all others facing vulnerable situations in Nepal and Bangladesh. In this program, CCA was represented by Dr. Natalie Lin, General Committee member from Taiwan and Ms. Janejinda Pawadee, JID Program Assistant.

The participants also visited camps and special zones, where stateless people are forced to live due to government imposed restrictions. Meetings with churches, various civil society, human rights organization and interfaith groups were also facilitated. The members of both teams were invited to attend a Consultation on Human Rights of Stateless People and Right to Nationality, which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 16-18 December 2011. This Consultation is organized by International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) which was attended by 30 participants, called for the church to become involved in wider advocacy initiatives to protect rights of the stateless people. Dhaka was a significant venue for the event, as Bangladesh is a country with a large number of stateless people, including the Rohingyas, ethnic minorities from Myanmar and the Urdu speaking Biharis from Pakistan.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 12 million people are stateless around the world, and not considered a national by any government. Therefore, a communiqué issued by the participants said that the “Bible itself bears witness to the stateless condition of the Hebrew people, and God’s involvement to provide them with a homeland, and therefore statehood.” “Biblical and theological bases motivate us to express our Christian commitment and engagement of our prophetic witness, to speak for the rights of the voiceless, and the marginalized stateless people, who live in our midst,” stated the communiqué.

The consultation also stressed the need for churches to be sensitized about the problems of stateless people, and their role in advocacy on the basis of theological perspectives. The participants recommended that churches should be encouraged to enter into alliances with like minded civil society organizations, working for the rights of the stateless people, especially trying to lobby with the governments to ratify the 1954 and 1961 United Nations Conventions on Statelessness.

The consultation was organized as part of the CCIA’s advocacy on stateless people as it was mandated by the working group on stateless people, which met in Kingston, Jamaica in May this year. The report and recommendations of the consultation will be presented at the next meeting of the CCIA, which will be held China in June 2012.