

Editorial

The Faith, Mission and Unity (FMU) program area of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA-FMU) organized in 2008 a series of national theological workshops to encourage “Theological Reflections on Naming, Unmasking and Engaging with Principalities and Powers”. These workshops were conceived by CCA staff with the awareness that theology arises from an interaction between the Bible (and other sacred texts) and the social, political, economic, ideological and cultural contexts of a given situation. Hence, these national theological workshops were aimed to provide avenues for theologians, pastors, activists and religious leaders to come together for meaningful encounter and dialogue. Efforts were made to include theologians from other denomination and faith communities.

The idea of holding national theological workshops came about not only in view of the costs and limitations of holding region-wide programs but because more people gather at national level and each context differs from each national situation and even within national situations. Each national workshop gathered its own mix of people—e.g. theologians, theological lecturers, pastors, ecumenical workers, church and religious leaders, representatives from other denominations and religious communities.

Three national theological workshops were held in 2008. The first was in Sri Lanka on February 7-8; the second in Indonesia on March 10-12; and the third in Chiang Mai, Thailand on October 12-15.

The papers in this edition of *CTC Bulletin* mainly come from the national theological workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia on March 10-12, 2008 on a theme chosen by Indonesian theologians themselves, “Doing Theology in the Context of Religious Resurgence Today”. The workshop was aimed at: (a) assessing the impact of religious resurgence on churches (e.g. in terms of identity, theological perspectives and practices) and on society; (b) doing critical reflections on inherited theological traditions and ways of being church; and (c) promoting critical, creative and constructive engagement of churches and religious communities with Indonesian contextual realities.

The national theological workshop in Indonesia was co-organized by CCA-FMU with the theological committee of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (CCI). It was participated by theological faculty from some seminaries and pastors from different denominations in Indonesia. Representatives from the Evangelical/Pentecostal Churches and the Muslim communities were also present and they enriched the workshop with their presentations and sharing.

As the papers would show, Indonesian theologians are concerned about the use and abuse of scriptures and its connection to religious resurgence. They analyzed the root causes of fundamentalism in religions from different perspectives—thereby, inviting speakers from other denominations and religious communities. They shared experiences of meaningful interreligious encounters and dialogues—in spite of the conflicts and violence that they sometimes experienced. They also drew upon the wealth of their cultural and religious heritage as resources for doing theology today.

We are indeed very grateful to the Kerk in Actie (Protestant Church in the Netherlands)

or KiA (PCN), whose continuing solidarity with the churches in Asia has made it possible for them to support these CCA theological programs in collaboration with our CCA constituency.

Three other papers are included in this edition of *CTC Bulletin*. Two were written for other conferences attended by a member of the CCA General Committee and a CCA executive staff, respectively. The third one was contributed by a friend from the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences—which is a testimony to the continuing partnership of the Protestant and Catholic communities, through the CCA and FABC, respectively.

We hope that you will be inspired, enriched and challenged by these theological articulations.

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Editor