



Christian Conference of Asia



Asian Ecumenical Institute -2024

Creation Care and Eco-Justice: Our Faith and 'Witness'

21 July - 17 August 2024/ CCA Headquarters, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The AEI, a month-long ecumenical formation training course organized annually by the CCA, focuses on ecumenical formation and leadership development of prospective Asian ecumenical and church leaders. The AEI is an opportunity to foster a broader concept on ecumenism rooted in Christian faith, tradition, and heritage, encouraging unity and understanding across boundaries of denomination, culture, society, economy, and politics. In an intercultural and interdenominational setting, the participants will have opportunities to live in an atmosphere of spirituality and worship, learning together through interactive sessions and dialogue, developing a talent for understanding the contextual ecumenical responses to Asia's emerging realities.

The AEI prioritises the formation of participants' biblical and theological foundations for sharpening their insights on God's creation care. By the end of the programme, participants are empowered with the skills and vision that will enable them to actively contribute to the ecumenical movement, and to commit more for creation care and justice.

The theme of the AEI-2024 has been developed within the conceptual framework of wider ecumenism with a specific thematic focus on ***Creation Care and Eco-Justice: Our Faith and 'Witness'***. This year the AEI will be jointly organized by the CCA and the programme for Ecumenical Formation of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and held at the Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

A team of prominent theologians, and ecumenists working at the international level will be the main resource persons of AEI-2024

Admissions will be limited to twenty-four (24) participants, and selections will be based on competence, gender, confessional balances, sub-regional representation, as well as the applicant's ability to effectively communicate in English. The CCA member churches and councils are encouraged to recommend interested candidates from their respective constituencies to apply for the AEI-2024.

The AEI will aim at:

- training a new group of young prospective ecumenical leaders in Asia, from among men and women, laity, youth, clergy and students of theology who are committed to the goal of ecumenism.
- equipping prospective church and ecumenical leaders with theological, socio-political and practical skills as well as with wider ecumenical vision, tools for the analysis of Asian reality; there will also be a special focus on development of leadership skills.
- enhancing their capacity to respond effectively to contemporary ecumenical challenges; and assisting participants to understand Asian and international ecumenical trends

Who can apply?

- Men and women, pastors, theological students, church workers, and/or lay leaders belonging to CCA member churches, councils and other ecumenical networks.
- Persons who are below 35 years.
- Persons who are interested in widening their ecumenical perspectives and sharing their learnings when they return to their respective countries.

Theme: *Creation Care and Eco-Justice: Our Faith and 'Withness'*

Being created in the image of God, we are called to be better stewards in the household of God and to live in harmony with one another. God wants the entire creation to live in harmony, even in the midst of our brokenness. God transforms and sustains the whole creation, which is to be cared for and restored, and with which we are called to live in harmony. It is in this context that the AEI-2024 will focus on the theme *Creation Care and Eco-Justice: Our Faith and 'Withness'*.

The theme emphasises the vital role of young people in actively engaging in creation care and affirming their commitment and strengthened bond of 'withness' in God's transformative work in creation. As we are living in an era when our 'creation care' is urgently needed and climate change is already having devastating effects on Asia, we urgently need to equip young people to play their pivotal role and take on leadership of the environmental movement as part of creation care and justice. Highlighting the interconnectedness between faith and the ecological crisis, the theme urges young Asian ecumenists to practice holistic ministry and work for creation care. Through the AEI-2024, the participants will explore theological foundations, drawing wisdom from diverse perspectives, and deepening their understanding of the interplay between spirituality, justice, and environmental well-being.

The theme also emphasises collaboration and collective action, encouraging participants to form networks beyond the boundaries of nationality, denomination, and culture. By fostering a community of young Asian ecumenists dedicated to care for God's creation, the AEI cultivates an environment of mutual learning and collaboration.

Applications

All applications will be accepted online via Google Form: [AEI-2024 Application Form](#)

Completed applications for the AEI 2024 should be submitted to CCA no later than **15 June 2024**.

Scholarship / Travel bursaries

The total cost for one student's participation at AEI-2024 for registration, board and lodging, and tuition fee will be 3000 USD and additional expenses for travel. CCA will offer scholarships for deserving applicants to cover board and lodging expenses of selected participants.

Limited travel grants also will be made available for candidates intending to join the course from South and South East Asian countries. Churches from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia are encouraged to sponsor participants from their respective churches and arrange their travel costs.