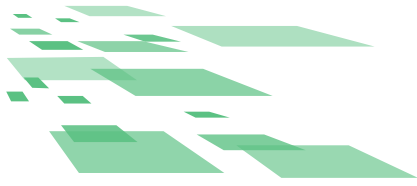


2009-2010
ANNUAL REPORT
CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA



2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA

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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



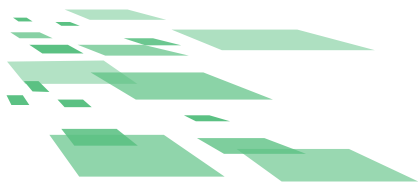
I warmly welcome the publication of the CCA Annual Report for 2009 and 2010. There have been many reports being produced, among others, the regular CCA Program Report produced every six months. Due to the hectic schedule related to the preparation of the CCA Assembly in April 2010, the staff were not able to produce the annual report for 2009 in time. This explains the reason why this publication covers an integrated annual report of both the years 2009 and 2010.

It is my hope that this report could help CCA member churches and councils, ecumenical partners all around the world, and all those interested, to understand the life and work of CCA. This is an expression of accountability of CCA to its constituencies and ecumenical partners who have faithfully supported its ministry. We will appreciate receiving comments and feedbacks for the improvement of the work of CCA in the future.

I assumed office only in mid-August of 2010. Almost all of the programs and activities were already implemented. My appreciation and thanks goes to my predecessor, Dr. Prawate Khid-arn and all CCA staff who worked hard in implementing the CCA programs in 2009 and 2010.

May God continuously grant us wisdom to move further, to put into action the mission of CCA, as has been stated that "in the next five years (2011-2015), the Christian Conference of Asia will encourage, equip, accompany and share with churches in Asia to engage in prophetic, compassionate, healing and reconciling ministries for the realization of justice and equality for all."

*Henriette Hutabarat Lebang
General Secretary*



INTRODUCTION TO CCA

This Is CCA

Established in 1957, the Christian Conference of Asia is a regional ecumenical organisation representing about 55 million people in almost 100 national churches and sixteen national councils of churches and national Christian councils. These came from nineteen countries in the region — Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Laos, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Timor Leste.

As a regional ecumenical movement, CCA strives to

- promote and strengthen the unity of the church in Asia,
- explore opportunities and promote joint action for the fulfillment of the mission of God in Asia and throughout the world,
- encourage Asian contributions to Christian thought, worship and action throughout the world,
- develop mutual awareness, fellowship and sharing among the churches in the region, and of relationships with other regional ecumenical organizations and the World Council of Churches,
- promote common study and action in such fields as evangelism, service, social human development and international relations,
- stimulate initiatives and experiments in dynamic Christian living and action,
- develop effective Christian responses to the challenges of the changing societies of Asia,
- develop and promote relationships with people of other faiths in Asia,
- protect human dignity and promote care for God's creation.

Churches joining CCA must be churches that confess Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Holy Scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfill their common calling to the one God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit. National councils or similar bodies joining CCA must accept this basis.

Purpose

Believing that the purpose of God for the Church in Asia is life together in a common obedience and witness to the mission of God in the world, CCA exists as an organ and a forum of continuing cooperation among the churches and national Christian bodies in Asia within the framework of a wider ecumenical movement. CCA is committed to the equal participation of women, men, youth, clergy and laity in church and society.

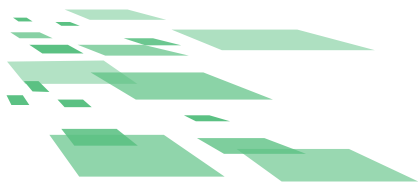
Vision

CCA envisions a Church in Asia participating in God's mission through 'building communities of peace for all' founded on justice, healing and reconciliation, harmony, equality and unity.

Mission

CCA commits to serve God through the ecumenical movement, and seeks to build communities of peace for all through Christian unity, service and witness.

We do this task by utilizing Asian theologies and spiritualities, renewing mission thinking and practice, enhancing human resources and capacity building, promoting human dignity, care for the whole creation, and intra-faith and interfaith cooperation, in collaboration with other churches, other faiths, and peoples' movements, with the equal participation of women and men, youth, clergy and laity in church and society.



GOALS

CCA aims to:

Goal 1

strengthen Christian faith and spiritualities and promote Asian Christian theologies to build communities of peace for all.

Goal 2

develop human resources for social development and sustainability of life to build communities of peace for all.

Goal 3

enhance ecumenical networking and relationships and cooperation within the Christian communities and with other faiths to build communities of peace.

Goal 4

strengthen CCA's organisational capacity and enhance the sense of ownership by its constituents of its vision, mission and goals.

Governance and Structure

The general assembly, consisting of delegates chosen by member councils and churches, meets for a time of fellowship and enrichment every five years. It sets forth the priorities and programs for the next five years and is the supreme policy-making body under Christ.

The general committee is elected by the general assembly. It is composed of elected officers and one representative from each country represented in CCA. It has the powers of the general assembly between general assembly meetings and normally meets in the year of the assembly and thereafter at least once in eighteen months.

The executive committee is elected by the general committee and is composed of officers and three to five members of the general committee. It meets in the years when the general committee is not meeting and at other times as required by the general committee.

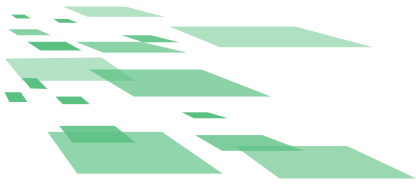
The twelfth general assembly held in 2005 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, reaffirmed its faith in the existing program area structure and constituted three program area committees-Program Area Committee on Faith, Mission and Unity; Program Area Committee on Justice, International Affairs, Development and Service; and, Program Area Committee on Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice and Youth Empowerment. The program

area committees are responsible for developing, implementing and reviewing the programs in accordance with the mandate of the general assembly and the guidelines of the general committee.

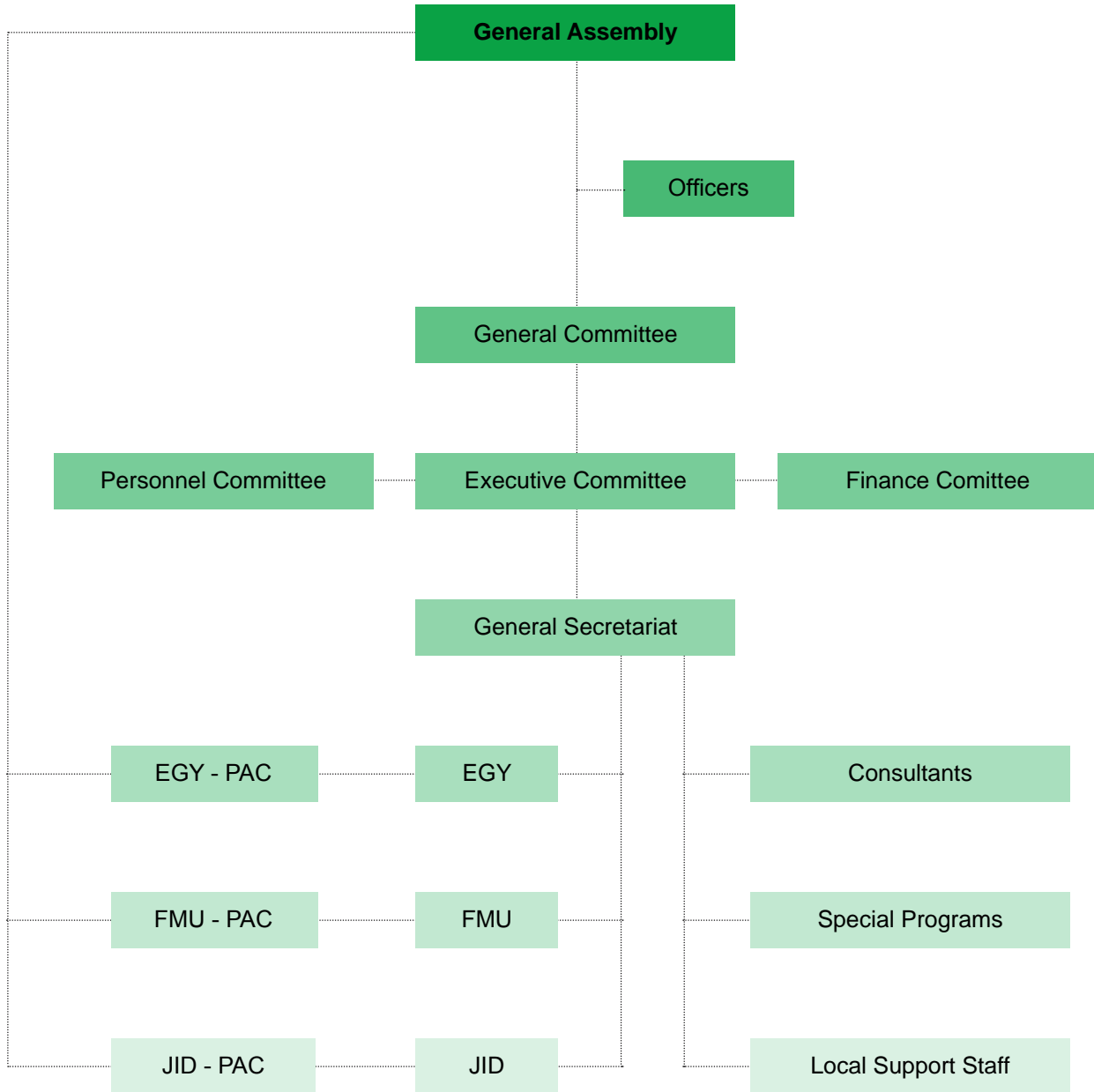
In addition, there are working groups on CCA-Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences Relations (FABC), Relationship with Churches in China, CCA-United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Relationship with the World Council of Churches (WCC).

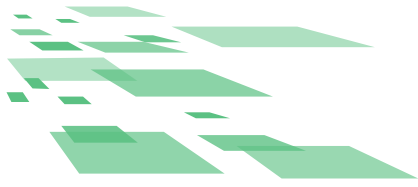
There is a General Secretariat consisting of the general secretary, assisted by two associate general secretaries. The general secretary is the chief executive officer of CCA and is elected by the general committee. The general secretariat and the executive secretaries of the program areas comprise the executive staff. They are responsible for the implementation of the programs, day-to-day administration and maintenance of ecumenical relations with member churches and councils as well as with other regional and international organizations.

Two standing committees, a Finance Committee and a Personnel Committee, respectively, provide guidance and direction in the financial and personnel decisions of CCA.



CCA ORGANIZATION





OUR VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

A Theological Reflection

CCA being one of the oldest regional ecumenical organizations has carried out its mandates over the years to make it relevant as well as meaningful to the churches and to the people at large we serve in Asia and beyond. The program reports in the form of narratives cover the activities of 2009 and 2010. This two-year report is one of the ways of indicating to our ecumenical friends and partners the work we have done and how far they have met CCA's mission and goals worked out at the 2005 Assembly until 2010.

In the mission statement of CCA it is stated that:

The Christian Conference of Asia is a regional body committed to serve God through the ecumenical movement and seek to proclaim God's love and to promote reconciliation and healing among communities through Christian witness and service. We do this by utilizing Asian theologies and spiritualities, renewing mission thinking and practice, enhancing human resources and building capacity, and promoting human dignity, care for the whole creation, and intra-faith cooperation. We do these with other churches, other faiths, and the peoples' movements, with equal participation of men, youth, clergy and laity in church and society.

CCA is not only one of the oldest ecumenical organizations but is also placed within a unique continent to exercise a distinctive and a decisive role in relation to God's mission and Christian witness amidst diverse religious communities; and to draw insights from liberative Asian religious spiritualities and wisdom of sages to deal with and resolve conflicts in the region. Another challenge CCA faces within the region is how to engage in the task of evangelism or sharing of the good and liberating news with the "sinned against" people in the region - the economically poor, malnourished children and adults, unemployed and the underemployed, women and children who are victims of patriarchal violence and the Dalits in India and other Asian countries, internally displaced and the migrant workers. Through these categories stated above we are talking about

more than 2/3 of humanity who live in Asia and who are also God's children entitled to enjoy and experience in this life a full share of God-given resources.

Asia is also a continent where we are faced with the issue of violence and plunder of God's creation mainly due to human greed and in return faced with droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

On the one hand, we who live in Asia are also placed within a continent of richness in terms of natural and human resources. But, because of the greed of a few and the feudalistic nature of several of Asian societies many Asian countries have failed to democratize their political, economic and social systems so that the God-given natural resources can be shared equitably. On the other hand, because of the feudalistic nature of governance, political power has remained in the hands of a few and those few families, clans, ideologues, despots and dictators have effectively used political power combined with military might with the support of regional and global powers to suppress popular uprisings in the name of stability and national security.

We as God's people or the Asian expression of the ecumenical movement represented through the CCA is called and set apart by God to be witnessing, reconciling and healing communities. In a sense our calling is not to conform to the principalities and powers of this world but to transform such situations having embraced the mind of Christ and to equip people in churches and outside to confront violence with compassion, mercy and justice. This involves a prophetic stance to identify, expose and unmask the principalities and powers of this world who try to pass off as God's agents or angels. This situation also demands to embrace a new spirituality of non-violence and non-conformity to the power of mammon. (Goals 1 and 2)

The context we are placed in also pushes us to wrestle with the Asian contexts with biblical texts in light of several other religious and ideological texts which are common to several millions of people in Asia. It is in that interaction that new theology with an authentic Asian identity will emerge from Asia which will be truly Asian, indigenous and contextual. (Goal 1)

Another demand which Asia poses to the churches and to diverse religious communities is to unite and seek ways and methods to meet the dehumanizing challenges of mammon, principalities and powers. Within the Christian tradition there are several areas where the divided churches can come together and forge alliances to work and witness to the liberating power of the Gospel. It is also possible to find common trends with other religious traditions where Christians and people of other faiths and ideologies can collaborate to address issues related to development, justice, good governance, human rights, ecological justice and violence against the vulnerable sectors of our societies. It is now time (kairos) and the situation demands that people of good will and those who seek an alternative social order come, reflect, plan and implement together to bring changes in light of the ethics and the values of the reign of God. This also demands a commitment to share human and financial resources so that Asia can set an example to overcome petty ideological, theological and religious sectarianism. (Goals 3 and 4).

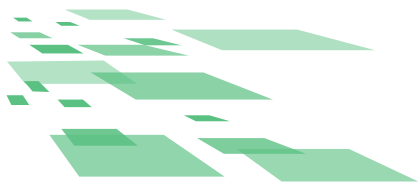
“It is now time (kairos) and the situation demands that people of good will and those who seek an alternative social order come, reflect, plan and implement together to bring changes in light of the ethics and the values of the reign of God.”

In the last five years we as a team have tried our best to wrestle with the mission mandate and the goals set before us. We may not have succeeded fully. But, attempts have been undertaken and the ground work has been laid. Therefore with St. Paul we could say, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Cor. 3: 6). The reports we share on behalf of the CCA are a glimpse of what we together with member churches, ecumenical partners and people in our constituencies have planted and watered. Let God in God’s own mysterious way show us and the generations to come “...what is the breadth and length and height and the depth...” (Eph. 3: 18) of the work we have done through the ecumenical movement in Asia.

Rienzie Perera
Associate General Secretary,
Finance and Relationship



Artwork adorning the CCA Assembly hall.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Dr. Prawate Khid-arn, General Secretary (until August 2010)

Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang, General Secretary (from August 2010)

Rev. Dr. Rienzie Perera, Associate General Secretary

Dr. Liza Lamis, Communications Consultant

CCA Asian Round Table Meeting (ART) Bangkok, Thailand; March 12-13, 2009

The spirit of CCA since 1957 is “life together” which was the meaning of the birthplace of CCA, “parapet” (Parapat) in Indonesia. “Life together demands that the churches in Asia accept that they belong to one another and are willing increasingly to live a shared life,” Dr. D.T. Niles told the assembly in 1957.

For this purpose, The CCA Asia Round Table Meeting (ART) with Church Leaders was convened on March 12-13, 2009 at the Bangkok Christian Guest House in Bangkok, Thailand. Twenty-two (22) church leaders from Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand met together with the CCA executive secretaries and consultants took part in the meeting

The ART was another landmark in the ecumenical journey of CCA and of Asian churches. It is another historical moment as Asian churches promote greater awareness of sharing - sharing ideas, sharing the blessings of God, sharing concerns, sharing life and sharing resources to each other.

The meeting had two main goals, namely: to enhance and cultivate the relationship between CCA and the member churches, and to discuss our financial needs with Partner Churches and Councils and find ways to meet those needs.

With the diversity and richness of Asian cultural heritage and the considerable talents of our people, the roundtable meeting encouraged cultural exchanges and promoted people-to-people contact among national churches and national councils.

The meeting concluded with the following commitments and suggestions made:

- To increase the CCA membership contributions to 25-50% of current amount. CCA should write a letter to all member churches.
- To increase the number of local hosting or hospitalities. Particular offers came from Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the GMIM, Indonesia to jointly host at least two events in each country. They said “it is easier to support programs than a secretariat”.
- To put up the ‘CCA Emergency Fund’ to respond to emergency situations. If it is a permanent or a long-term plan, CCA should discuss with ACT International to avoid duplication and to promote mutual understanding and closer cooperation.
- Member churches need to understand CCA’s financial plan, e.g. what it is it wants to do next three years
- CCA should visit member churches to share concerns and programs.

Asian church leaders appreciated this initiative. They suggested that the RT meeting should continue and more church leaders will be invited. The round table meeting is relatively new to Asian churches, and different from the round table meeting with ecumenical organizations from Europe and North America. Asian churches are generally keen to give “in-kind” support rather than “cash”.

CCA Staff Planning Workshop Chiang Mai, Thailand; April 27-28

An annual CCA Staff Planning Workshop (2009) was held at the Paradornpap International House, Payap

University in Chiang Mai, Thailand on April 27-28, 2009. Along with the executive secretaries and consultants, the administrative staff also participated in the workshop.

The workshop aimed to increase understanding of program cluster and coordination; to analyze and identify key issues and challenges; to review of past activities; and, to design future programs and activities for 2010.

The workshop devoted time to program evaluation, reflection and identifying focus issues for 2009 and beyond. Following concerns were identified for particular program areas:

General Secretariat **(GS)**

- Relationship with member churches, councils and ecumenical organizations
- Interfaith and Intra-faith Dialogue and Cooperation

Faith, Mission and Unity **(FMU)**

- Asian theologies (theological roundtable)
- Ecumenical theological education
- Mission in the new global and Asian contexts: Theological Workshop/Reflection on Migrants and Migrant Workers, etc.

Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice and Youth Empowerment **(EGY)**

- Gender sensitivity
- Capacity and leadership development for women and youth - Interfaith Cooperation for Conflict Transformation and Violence Against Women; Asian School for Ecumenical Formation and Gender Justice; capacity enhancement for young leaders; EASYNET Regional Coordinators' Training; Workshop on Sexual Identities

Justice, International Affairs, Development and Service **(JID)**

- The Rights of Migrant Workers
- Alternatives to Globalization; Economic Injustice and Peoples' Movements
- Human Rights Courses
- Peace and Conflict Resolution - NEA Peace and Security Issues, Small Arms Trading, Solidarity and Accompaniment
- Impact of natural disasters
- Need for climate change consciousness

- Poverty and Water Rights
- HIV and AIDS Program - HIV and AIDS Policy Development for NCCs/Awareness and Capacity Building of AIDS Workers

Consultation on Peace in Southern Thailand Pattani, Thailand; 18-19 May, 2009

The continued tension and violence in the provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat in Southern Thailand, have resulted to the loss of over 3000 lives since 2004. The situation has been more complex with inter-related causes including historical, economic, political, identity and cultural ones. The problem is further compounded by other factors such as corruption, illegal trade and mistrust between Buddhist and Muslim villagers, and between Muslim villagers and local officials.

On May 18-19, 2009, over 200 participants representing Buddhist, Islam, Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities took part in the inter-religious leaders' consultation to promote harmony and peace in Southern Thailand. The consultation was jointly organized by the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), Research Center for Peace Building of Mahidol University, Religions for Peace (Thailand) and World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB), in Pattani Province.

It was strongly recommended that the religious leaders regularly meet, exchange ideas and hold joint activities to strengthen trust and mutual understanding and cooperation between the people of different faiths. An "Inter-religious Council for Peace in Southern Thailand" was formed.

Round Table Meeting with Ecumenical Partner Organizations Chiang Mai, Thailand; July 9-10, 2009

The 2009 CCA Round Table Meeting with ecumenical partners from Europe and North America held at the Paradornparp International House, Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand was the second meeting after the one in 2006. This year, ten ecumenical representatives from nine organizations - the Bread for the World (BfW), ICCO-Kerk in Actie (ICCO-KA), Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW),

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), British Methodist Church (BMC), Church of Scotland (CoS), Church World Service (CWS), United Church in Canada (UCC) and Global Ministries-United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ (GM-UCC & DOC) were represented in the meeting.

Dr. Prawate Khid-arn, CCA General Secretary presented an overview of the ecumenical challenges in Asia, highlighting poverty, peace and sustainable communities. He emphasized that “the problems that we are facing now is not only socio-economic and political in nature. It has also some implications for our faith, moral and spiritual state of being. Thus, we desperately need a spiritual transformation, a rethinking of critical Asian spiritualities and Christian theologies that can guide and strengthen our churches historically. Re-visiting our roots and traditions can help us to understand the history and envision a new future.”

The General Secretary then highlighted the programs and planned activities for 2010. His presentation focused on three major areas: Strengthening Asian theologies and spiritualities; human resources development and sustainability of life; and, intra and inter-religious cooperation. The presentation was supplemented in details by the Executive Secretaries of the three Program Areas, namely: FMU, EGY and JID.

The ecumenical partners expressed their ecumenical support and commitment to journey with CCA. They kept their financial support for 2010 at the same level as the current year. They decided that a meeting of the Round Table Core Group be convened after the General Assembly. The next Round Table Meeting will be held in 2011.

CCA General Committee Meeting Bangkok, Thailand; September 29 - October 2, 2009

The CCA General Committee met at the Bangkok Christian Guest House, Bangkok, Thailand. The Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) provided hospitality throughout the meeting and paid for participants' board and lodging for which CCA is grateful. CCT's generous gesture affirms the CCA Member Churches' support and strong sense of ownership of the ecumenical work in Asia.

Prior to the meeting, members of the General Committee and staff took part in the 75th CCT anniversary celebration held at the Bangkok Christian College attended by around 2,000 church members, elders, deacons, deaconesses, clergy, lay people, women and youth praised God for blessings, challenges as well as successes of the CCT.

Consultation on the Role of Religious Leaders in Conflict Transformation and Peace Building Bangkok, Thailand; October 28 – 29, 2009

In times of war or peace and at different stages of conflict from prevention to post conflict reconciliation and reconstruction, religious leaders and their communities play critical roles.

In times of war or peace and at different stages of conflict from prevention to post conflict reconciliation and reconstruction, religious leaders and their communities play critical roles.

The World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP/ Religions for Peace), the world's largest multi-religious organization accredited by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Peace Study Center of Mahidol University, CCA, and the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) Thailand, jointly organized the meeting in Bangkok.

Over 100 senior religious leaders representing Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Christian and other traditions from Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the meeting to present initiatives in building inter-religious instruments to undertake high-level advocacy and action to resolve conflict and to advance peace.

The IRC, led by senior representatives of religious communities in Thailand serves as the multi-religious voice of the country, offers the possibility of mediation, rejects extremist tendencies, and educates the public on the positive, socially transformative power of religions and their cooperation.

The 13th CCA General Assembly Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; April 14-21, 2010

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA). The Assembly meets once in every five years to celebrate God's blessings, to share on God's mission in the life of member churches and councils, to envisage a new vision and direction in the midst of new challenges, and to elect its new leaders.

The 13th General Assembly theme "Called to Prophecy, Reconcile and Heal" was held in cooperation with the Council of Churches of Malaysia at the Grand Seasons Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A total of 387 participants attended the Assembly, with 163 voting and 223 non-voting delegates. Of the 163 voting delegates, there were 103 men, and 60 women; 76 clergy, 15 lay men, 37 lay women and 35 youth.

Prior to the main Assembly, there were five pre-assembly events held:

- Pre-assembly for Women, organized by the EGY Program Area
- Pre-assembly for Youth and Stewards Training, organized by the EGY Program Area
- Pre-assembly for People Living with HIV and AIDS organized by the HIV and AIDS Program
- People's Forum organized by the JID Program Area
- Asia Ecumenical Course organized by the FMU

The Assembly program included worship services with participatory Bible Studies, two D.T. Niles Memorial Lectures, discussions on emerging issues and challenges, workshops on Program Review and Program Directions, and activities fostering deeper ecumenical fellowship. Each day, a *Listening Team* reported to the Assembly highlights of their observations of the previous day's proceedings.

It was an honor and a blessing for the Assembly participants to have had the presence of Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, newly elected General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). He delivered a

public lecture on "Called to Prophecy, Reconcile and Heal: An Ecumenical Perspective". Briefly, Dr. Tveit said:

"This (Assembly) theme expresses the ability to see the wholeness of life, holding quite different perspectives *together*. From your Asian tradition I believe you are enabled, maybe more than many others, to see different perspectives together as a whole, in a wider harmony. This is a significant contribution to our common, ecumenical and global reflection of what it means to be one."

Two equally illustrious speakers and seasoned ecumenists delivered the D.T. Niles Memorial Lectures, namely: Dr Daniel Preman Niles, and Dr Ruth Manorama. Dr Niles is the son of D. T. Niles and a former general secretary of the Council for World Mission (CWM). Dr Ruth Manorama is a Dalit who heads the National Alliance for Women in India, and has been a Right Livelihood Awardee in 2006.

The Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee to appoint Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang (Ery) from Toraja Church, Indonesia, as the new General Secretary. Dr Hutabarat Lebang is the first woman to assume the post of General Secretary of CCA. She is well known in the ecumenical movement, and had served CCA as its Associate General Secretary for Program Coordination for ten years when CCA was still in Hong Kong.

A new set of CCA Officers were also elected.

Presidium: Rev. Rex R. B. Reyes, Jr. (Philippines)
Dr. Kali Bahadur Rokaya (Nepal)
Ms. Van Arun Rasmey (Cambodia)
Rev. Ms. Retno Ngapon (Indonesia)

Honorary Treasurer:
Mr. Augustine Karmakar (Bangladesh)

The Assembly received five new member churches and a Council. They are the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (Philippines); The Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in Iran (Iran); The Synod of the Oikoumene Christian Church in Indonesia-GKO (Indonesia); the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions (Australia) and the National Christian Council of Bhutan (Bhutan). CCA now has membership in 22 countries in Asia.

The assembly delegates were able to theologically engage deeply in reflecting on the Assembly theme. New mandates were given for the next five years, a new set of officers elected to steer the ecumenical boat in Asia, and the ecumenical bond strengthened to respond to God's call for the churches in Asia to be prophets, healers and reconcilers.

Communications and the CCA Library

The CCA News and the weekly e-news, A Letter from CCA, are regularly published, and are all posted in the CCA website. Recently, the sharing of news from members for the weekly e-news was introduced. Member churches and councils are encouraged to send their urgent country and church concerns to CCA, making possible for the Christian community around the world to be in solidarity and prayers and to enable CCA to deliver timely and appropriate response and solidarity support.

The CCA Library is now accessible online through our website. Archiving of CCA documents is in progress, and CCA is very happy to have received an offer from Yale University to take care of the archives for free.

Ecumenical Relations

Throughout the year, the General Secretary and Associate General Secretary traveled widely to promote the work and programs of CCA as well as to respond to invitations to participate in meetings and programs of related ecumenical organizations outside of Asia. The general objectives of CCA's ecumenical relations include:

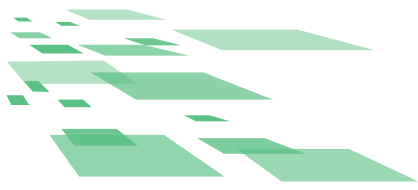
- Pastoral visits member churches and council
- Participation in life and work of member churches and councils
- Solidarity visit to victims of conflict and natural disasters
- Inspection visit projects supported by CCA
- Participate in meetings of related ecumenical organizations outside of Asia

A major part of the role of the General Secretary is to visit member churches and Councils to foster stronger ecumenical cooperation. Among the countries visited by Dr. Prawate Khid-arn in 2009 and 2010 were – Myanmar, Laos, Nepal, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and North Korea. The ecumenical visits were of varied nature and purpose, including consultations on programs and directions, meeting with church leaders, attendance at church assemblies and forums, and board meetings (Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism), being present at the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, and the International Conference on AIDS (Bali, Indonesia), and joining a WCC delegation to Pyongyang, North Korea prior to the International Conference marking the 25th anniversary of the Tozanso ecumenical process held in Hong Kong.

The Rev. Dr. Rienzie Perera, Associate General Secretary for Finance, also shared the work of building ecumenical relations. He attended a conference and read a paper on theology, ecumenism and finance, organized by the General Secretariat of WCC. He read a paper on "The Role of the Ecumenical Movement in Advocating for Ethical Principles". He made a stop over in Uppsala and visited the Headquarters of the Church of Sweden to negotiate the funding grant for the work of CCA.



Fostering strong ecumenical relations. Dr Prawate Khid-arn with church leaders in Aotearoa New Zealand.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ECUMENICAL FORMATION, GENDER JUSTICE AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT (EGY)

*Ms Moumita Biswas, Joint Executive Secretary
Mr. Adam Anand Row, Consultant – Youth (until July 2010)*

National Consultation on Overcoming Violence Against Women and Children Kathmandu, Nepal; March 5, 2009

The Consultation was organized by CCA's Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice and Youth Empowerment Program in partnership with YWCA Nepal on the theme, 'Overcoming Violence Against Women and Children'. Forty-five local women leaders from churches, faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations attended the consultation.

Objectives

- To enhance and strengthen CCA's networking with women leaders in Nepal.
- To assist Nepali women create a platform for dialogue about their work, and to promote gender justice and peace.
- To discuss action plans on how EGY can work together with Church women in Nepal and other leaders on pertinent contextual issues.

The Consultation was an attempt to assist women leaders in Nepal strengthen networks and to actively be involved in social justice and gender issues, which also provided assistance to the churches represented by the Nepal Council of Churches.

Reviving Prophetic Ecumenism: Role of Women and Youth in Asia Kathmandu, Nepal; March 6 – 9, 2009

A growing culture of violence has continued to fragment and disempower women and youth in Asia, and the Consultation was conducted in Kathmandu following the Consultation on Violence, but this time focused on

the prophetic role of women and youth in Asia starting with the churches.

Gender justice is often regarded by many Church leaders as an agenda for and of women only. In order to promote a prophetic ministry among the youth and women in Asia, the Program Area Committee of EGY met to strategize, give directions to program thrusts and make concrete action plans and recommendations.

Objectives

- To critically analyze the work and activities of EGY in building communities of peace from 2006 - 2009.
- To map out critical issues in the different sub-regions, eroding gender justice and violating the rights of women and youth.
- To strategize to equip youth and women in churches in Asia for the task of reviving a prophetic ministry that is revitalizing to the Asian ecumenical movement.
- To evolve concrete action plans to promote gender justice, women's ecumenical leadership development and youth empowerment in Asia.

Outcomes

Action plans were discussed, including concrete strategies in promoting gender justice in the church and the wider society, based on participatory planning, which would redound to further strengthening the ecumenical movement and building a strong youth network. Some directions and recommendations were offered in preparation for the CCA Women and Youth pre-Assemblies in 2010.

**Grassroots Church Women Leaders and Activists Ecumenical Leadership Development Program
Seoul, South Korea; June 8 – 15, 2009**

Christian women leaders and activists working among grassroots people play a very crucial role in building communities of peace. However, often their contributions are over looked or not recognized by society and even the Church, and their leadership qualities and potential contributions as agents of transformation only disregarded by mainstream society as they are coming from the grassroots but also because they are women. It is in this context the 'Training the Trainers' program was organized in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Korea, to enhance ecumenical formation and leadership skills of grassroots Church women leaders and activists who work among migrant workers and urban slum communities.

Objectives

- To equip grassroots women church leaders and activists with feminist strategies for organizing people and theologizing skills as tools for empowerment of people in local communities.
- To promote ecumenical formation and leadership development of grassroots women Church Leaders and activists to overcome violence and discrimination against women and children migrant workers in Asia.
- To support grassroots Church leaders and activists empowerment initiatives and networking efforts for advocacy and campaign to promote human rights for women and children migrant workers, refugees, and urban slum dwellers in Asia.
- To enhance grassroots women activists and Church leaders participation in decision making processes in church and society to effect transformation.

**Asian School of Ecumenical Formation for Gender Justice (For Leaders of Mekong Region and East Timor)
Chiang Mai, Thailand; 14 - 24 September 2009**

CCA's move from "women's concerns" to "gender justice" program opened a new arena for women and men to study the power relationships between women

and men and the inequalities brought about by the stereotyping of socially constructed gender roles) within the larger patriarchal system of domination. Class, caste, race/ ethnicity and globalization need to be analyzed as they intersect and impact on gender. The Asian School of Ecumenical Formation for Gender Justice is aimed at enhancing capacity of men and women, youth and young adult, and the Church to promote gender justice and engage in prophetic ministry to build inclusive communities of peace. In 2009 ASEF- GJ was conducted especially for the Mekong Region with Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and China.

Goal

ASEF-GJ aims to contribute to enhancing the capacity of church women and men in undertaking effective action in addressing gender, development and leadership issues in the context of working towards a just and egalitarian church and society.

Outcomes

- 25 participants from Mekong Region and East Timor were trained in this workshop
- Visibility of CCA's member Churches and councils in the Mekong Region in promoting gender justice, and increased capacity in facilitating gender training for women and men in the church is developed.
- A multiplier impact of similar workshops and gender justice schools in the Churches, national level and local communities.

**Workshop on "Towards Positive Masculinities for Partnership"
Chiang Mai, Thailand; 4 - 13 December 2009**

This consultation was organized in collaboration and partnership with the WCC. The main aim of this consultation was to envision men as partners in: promoting positive masculinities and to address women's reproductive and sexual health and wholeness. In this consultation CCA played a major role in bringing in Asian theological/biblical inputs, in overcoming gender based violence and positive masculinities. Such inputs also aimed to help in contributing Asian perspectives in formulating a training manual by WCC and WARC. Objectives

- To build a movement for gender justice for a non-violent world around a nucleus of activists, scholars, facilitators as well as animators for justice and peace. Women and men who will help develop strategies of building a culture of peace as well as animate methods of resistance against violence against women and children.

Outcomes

- Strengthened men and women partnership and Asian inputs to evolve positive masculinities and deconstruct stereotyped masculinities to overcome gender based violence.
- Increase awareness among Asian participants about Asian and global men's movements (example White Ribbon Campaign) to overcome violence against women and children.
- New contextual biblical theological hermeneutics was evolved by men participants to create gender justice awareness, advocacy and training.

Young Indigenous/Dalit Women Internship Program CCA Office Chiang Mai; April to December 2009

This internship program was initiated to promote the leadership development of indigenous and Dalit women in Asia in partnership with WCC and NCC India, and for the intern to continue their ecumenical involvement beyond the internship.

Objectives:

- Ecumenical formation and leadership development of young, indigenous/Dalit theologically trained women.
- Equip the intern with skills, tools and strategies in decision making in Church and society.
- Create awareness among member Churches to promote young women's leadership development.

Outcomes

- Claudia Procula Narzery, a Bodo tribe (Assam) theologically trained woman from the Church of North India underwent training as an intern in CCA;
- Ownership and recognition of member Church of CCA in promoting youth indigenous women's leadership development.
- The trained intern to train other indigenous youth/women with support and solidarity of CCA.

Gender Justice Workshop and Follow-up National Training Phnom Penh, Cambodia; 24- 26 February 2010

The Asian School of Ecumenical Formation for Gender Justice, Training the Trainers Capacity Enhancement Program for church leaders of Mekong countries and East Timor was held in September 2009 in Thailand. This was a follow-up activity supported by EGY and was conducted by the Kampuchea Christian Council at the Children Vision Center, Kraing Tey village, Phnom Penh.

Twenty-six men and women participated, in which Ms Prak Saravy, KCC Women's Desk Secretary and Samnang Douk, KCC Youth Secretary played key roles in organizing and implementing the program jointly facilitated by EGY with Rev. Huh Chun Jung and Ms Janejinda Pawadee, both from the Mekong Ecumenical Partnership Program (MEPP).

Aim and objectives

- Increase awareness among congregations regarding the need of promoting gender justice to overcome violence and build prophetic communities of peace
- Enhance the capacity of local leaders regarding gender justice issues
- Strengthen local ecumenical movements

This was a ground breaking activity for male church leaders in Cambodia who took part in a discussion of gender justice issues in a workshop. It also helped encourage the need for continuing dialogue and capacity enhancement for both women and men in Cambodian churches. The program was conducted in the local Khmer language with local resource persons. Young people showed incredible leadership in the training.

Pre-Assembly Women's Forum Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 10– 13 April 2010

In order to involve more women leaders in the decision making processes in the church, and to review how gender justice is being promoted by churches in Asia, a Women's Pre-Assembly Forum was organized before the CCA Assembly on the theme "*Celebration of life: Asian Women Prophets, Healers and Reconcilers*".

An Asian prophetic *ekklesia* must also discern and unmask the unheard silenced voices of many Asian women by promoting gender justice. It is essential for to understand that women's leadership development and ecumenical formation alone cannot transform society or eradicate violence against women and children. The Asian ecumenical movement therefore should shake the understanding of many Asian Church leaders that gender justice is not an agenda 'for' and 'of' women only, and that women's empowerment and their liberation from patriarchal oppression is a challenge for both women and men.

Objectives

- To strengthen Asian Women's Ecumenical Movement in building prophetic and inclusive communities of peace
- To acknowledge and recognize Asian Women's contributions of Justpeace skills as healers and reconcilers in building communities of peace
- To evolve action plans and strategies in promoting Asian church women's involvement in the decision-making processes in church and society, and in leadership development in building sustainable, prophetic communities.
- To promote a theology of positive masculinity and spirituality and involvement of men as well as women and youth to promote gender justice.

Outcomes

- Seventy women Church leaders from Asia and Oceania (Australia, New Zealand), and global ecumenical partners with a few men Church leaders participated in this forum
- Increased visibility, strengthened networking and solidarity among Asian church women in cross-cultural and prophetic mission as healers and reconcilers, and in building communities of peace.
- Concrete deliberations on the vision and mission of CCA in promoting gender justice, women's leadership development, and promoting Asian Theology, exemplified in a Statement issued during the Women's Forum exemplifies such vision and missions

Seventy-five women and a few male church leaders participated in the Forum. It is hoped that there will be

increased visibility of Asian church women's involvement in decision-making processes in Church and ecumenical organizations in building prophetic communities.

Pre-Assembly Youth Forum Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; April 11-13, 2010

The CCA youth Pre-Assembly was organized to strengthen the Asian youth ecumenical movement, to involve the youth in the decision making process and to acknowledging their contributions to prophetic ministry in Church and society.

Objectives

- To provide space for discussions on current and emerging youth issues within Asia, and to find focus and direction for youth in the CCA in the next five years;
- To prepare the youth delegates for the General Assembly, and to draft the Youth Statement for presentation in the CCA Assembly;
- Ecumenical formation of youth serving as stewards in the CCA Assembly.

Outcomes

- Strengthened youth networking and revitalized youth ecumenical movement in Asia.
- Better participation of youth in decision making in church and society in Asia.
- The Youth Statement gave directions on CCA's vision and mission for promoting and nurturing youth ecumenical movement in Asia.

Women Church Leaders Meeting (Promote Advocacy for Conflict Transformation to Overcome Violence against Women and Children) Dili, Timor Leste; July 10 - 11, 2010

The meeting was organized in partnership with IPTL in Timor Leste, with the aim of facilitating the training of women Church leaders in decision making and in formulating the vision and mission of the Women's Commission of IPTL, promoting gender justice, and evolving action plans for capacity enhancement for conflict transformation and overcoming violence against women and children. Most of the women who attended the meeting were grassroots women leaders in Churches from different districts of Timor Leste.

Objectives

- Strengthening East Timor women in the ecumenical movement;
- Participatory planning and accompaniment of women Church leaders of Timor Leste to promote gender justice and overcome violence against women and children;
- Reviving Timor Leste women's spirituality and theology of life to overcome conflict and engage in healing and reconciliation.

Outcomes

- 25 women leaders of IPTL trained to participate in decision making;
- Women Church leaders in Timor Leste support the Women Resource Center in IPTL, a space for nurturing spirituality and training of women leaders;
- Networking with church women in Indonesia to support and equip one another in leadership development and the prophetic ministry of healing and reconciliation.
- Church women actively promoting maternal health and health education

Gender Mainstreaming Workshop on "Towards Gender Equity" Myanmar; 27 - 30 September 2010

The Gender Mainstreaming Workshop was organized by Myanmar Council of Churches with the support of EGY, initiated by participants and staff who were trained in the Asian School of Ecumenical Formation for Gender Justice.

Objectives

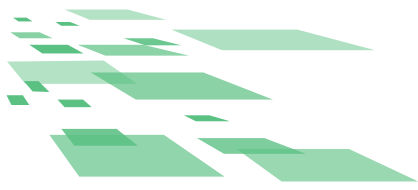
- To study the concept of gender from a biblical and theological perspective;
- To promote gender sensitivity among the member Churches and address gender based violence in religious Institutions and society.
- To equip Church leaders with skills, tools and knowledge of gender mainstreaming in various activities of member Churches.

Outcomes

- Twenty-seven church leaders (12 women, 6 men and 9 members of Gender Equality Technical Support Group, Myanmar Council of Churches) participated in the workshop
- Participants gained new perspective of gender justice from Biblical and theological teachings and accepted gender as cross-cutting issue for the religious and social activities.
- Participants equipped with knowledge, skills and tools for gender mainstreaming and its importance in program planning.
- Action plans for Myanmar Council of Churches' work with its member to promote advocacy for gender mainstreaming and to encourage member churches in their gender policy and sexual harassment policy.



Celebrating International Women's Day in Nepal in 2009.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FAITH, MISSION AND UNITY (FMU)

Dr. Hope S. Antone, Joint Executive Secretary
Rev. Dr. Sungkook Park, Joint Executive Secretary

Sixth Congress of Asian Theologians (Philippines) **Iloilo City, Philippines; 8 - 12 February 2009**

Objective/s:

- To provide participants with the opportunity for critical analysis of Western mission, exchange and sharing of academic/pastoral information and to work out an Asian understanding and theology of mission, and set forth the themes of “Edinburgh 2010” from an Asian perspective;
- To provide participants with an opportunity to set up a network to work on and follow through the development of an Asian theological agenda on mission.

Around 120 participants and guests gathered at Central Philippine University to work on critical reflection and seek for a new a paradigm of mission. Great interest and active participation in discussions and buzz groups reflected the immediate need to reflect and work on a new paradigm on mission from the perspective of Asia. Three theme presentations were delivered: (1) “Critical Historical Review of Mission since 1910” (Rev. Dr. M. P. Joseph, Tainan Theological College / Seminary, Tainan / Taiwan); (2) “Biblical-Theological Reflection on Doing Mission from the Underside” (Rev. Dr. Anna May, Myanmar Institute of Theology); (3) “Contemporary Challenges in Doing Mission” (Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri, General Secretary, Council of Churches of Malaysia). There were panels on various issues, to reflect critically on mission from the perspectives of indigenous people, economically deprived, women, people living with HIV/AIDS, ecology, human rights and dignity.

A one-day forum on gender issues was organized, where women and men gathered in their respective gender groups to discuss on the given theme from the perspective of women / men.

Small group discussions according to interests and disciplines / interdisciplinary interests were also held. At the end a statement was offered (“Iloilo Declaration”).
Objective: To share perspectives of mission in Asia

and discuss the possibility of a “Code of Conduct of Mission”.

Forum on “Mission and Missionaries in Asia” **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 18 April 2010**

About 15 people were engaged in discussing the given theme and shared a common understanding and agreement on organizing an Asian Conference on Mission, affirming that the urgency of ecumenically minded mission in a multi-religious and plural setting. The group recommended that CCA-FMU should organize more programs related to mission issues along with theological consultations. Their recommendations and suggestions will be shared with the CCA-FMU program area committee.

Asian Ecumenical Course **Regional Level AEC**

Kolkata, India; 18 - 30 October 2009, and
Seremban, Negeri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia; 9-22 April 2010

Objectives:

To equip younger generation of leaders with a wider ecumenical perspective so that they can be empowered to pass this on to their respective communities, help create a more conscientized constituency that is fully grounded in their own faith but committed to work for the wider unity of people and with the rest of creation.

AEC program consists of (a) community building, (b) Asian reality, (c) ecumenical vision and (d) leadership training. Community building activities included sharing of faith journeys and group dynamics exercises. Workshops on the use of arts in prophesying, reconciling and healing ministry involved exercises in street theater, singing, and movements using various cultural elements from the participants’ own countries and cultures. Inputs were also given on Malaysian

and Asian realities, wider ecumenism, Christian-Muslim relations in Malaysia, ecological concerns, Islam and Minorities in Malaysia, and workshops on the use of arts and cultures in prophesying, reconciling and healing ministry.

A total of 23 participants (13 men, 10 women) completed the Asian Ecumenical Course 2009 and 21 participants (11 women, 10 men) completed the Asian Ecumenical Course in Malaysia. Many participants have continued to be in touch with each other after the program and some have mentioned what they have done so far to share what they learned from AEC – e.g. through the chapel service at the seminary; with their classmates and colleagues, etc.

National Level BEC Quezon City, Philippines; 15-29 October 2010

To reach out to more people with lesser costs, the holding of a national Asian Ecumenical Course was conceived. This is also a way to work closely with CCA member churches or councils. The national AEC (or Basic Ecumenical Course, as it is called in the Philippines) was held in cooperation with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. Like AEC, the BEC module includes the components of Asian reality (through Philippine issues), ecumenical vision, community building and leadership training.

Of the 29 participants, 22 were Filipinos and 7 were from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia. The Filipino participants came from different parts and denominations of the Philippines. They included pastors, youth leaders, church workers, and theology students. Many of them were very critical of how the church has become captive to capitalism – e.g. when the church works only for the rich and seeks to be rich, preaching that God wants people to be rich so that if we obey God's word we will be rich.

BEC module was a building up from ecumenical memory to ecumenical agenda, ecumenical theology, deepening through immersion and encounter, and concrete actions for solidarity and advocacy. Resource persons came from various denominations in the Philippines, thereby giving participants a taste of various ecumenical perspectives on issues. For more details and evaluation comments from participants, please refer to CCA News (December 2010).

Ecumenical Lectures Series

College of Theology of Central Philippine University Iloilo City, Philippines; 6 February 2009

Objective/s

- To promote wider ecumenism among CCA constituency, especially the church-related seminaries of CCA member churches.
- To share feminist critique of Christian Ethics as it has been traditionally taught;
- To show how feminism can be mainstreamed in the teaching of Christian Ethics; and
- To share some ethical challenges related to some Asian issues – e.g. the rights of minority groups, sexual abuse in the church, etc.

The holding of ecumenical lectures on “gender and ethics” just before the start of the Sixth Congress of Asian Theologians was specially requested by the Rev. Dr. Limuel Equina, dean of the College of Theology of Central Philippine University. The lectures were open to the general population of the university, especially those taking religion and ethics, social work and theology. Indeed, the University Chapel, with a capacity of more than 1000, was filled with students and their faculty.

Main resource persons and facilitators were Dr. Hope S. Antone of CCA-FMU who spoke on mainstreaming gender perspective in Christian Ethics and Dr. Anna May Chain of Myanmar Institute of Theology, who spoke on gender and ethnic minority rights. However, during the open forum, most of the questions from the audience were on the issue of homosexuality – e.g., Can gays and lesbians go to heaven? How do we deal with passages in the Bible that speaks against homosexuality? Do violence and sexual abuse really happen in the churches?

It was very clear that gender and sexuality are very important issues for CPU students, majority of who come from Catholic or Baptist backgrounds. By opening the discourse on homosexuality in the university, students felt encouraged to continue their discussion also in their churches and homes. There was no formal evaluation done following the lectures but through the active participation of the students, through their many questions, both written and spoken, we could tell that they were very much engaged.

**The Association of Theological Schools in Indonesia (PERSETIA)
Pematang Siantar, Indonesia; 13 - 24 July 2009**

Objectives (of PERSETIA):

- To provide graduate students an opportunity to gain international experience in their course work by bringing Christian scholars from abroad to teach.
- To provide graduate students an opportunity to fellowship and develop an ecumenical spirit as future leaders of churches.
- To provide graduate students an opportunity for in-depth discussions on issues facing the church and society they are serving.
- (from the perspective of CCA-FMU) To make use of an existing program in Indonesia for sharing the wider ecumenical vision and the Asian feminist theologizing.

Close to 90 M. Th. students from all over Indonesia attended the Persetia Summer School for Graduate Students held at the STT HKBP in July 2009. Invited as one of three resource persons was Dr. Hope S. Antone from CCA-FMU whose inputs were on "Wider Ecumenism" and "Asian Feminist Theologizing". Topics on wider ecumenism included "Revisiting the concept, vision and brief history of ecumenism", "biblical and theological foundations of wider ecumenism" and "new paradigm concepts of mission" while topics on Asian feminist theologizing included "the what and why of Asian feminist theologizing" and "the spiral of Asian feminist theologizing."

Participants worked in small groups to do the feminist spiral of theologizing, which turned out to be an eye-opening experience as various groups raised very patriarchal practices among certain Indonesian ethnic groups – e.g. polygamy, polyandry, dowry and caste systems.

Through this activity, CCA-FMU utilized an existing program to reach out to a large group of graduate students throughout Indonesia. The summer school program is a yearly program required of graduate studies in Persetia member schools. Students come from different denominations (Evangelical and mainstream), ethnic backgrounds, and also religions (one Muslim man was from Tomohon, which has been a site of ethnic and religious violence).

The decision to incorporate wider ecumenism and Asian feminist theologizing in the graduate students' summer school came about after the PERSETIA

chairperson (Rev. Dr. Daniel Nuhamara) served as dean of the Asian Ecumenical Course 2008 and participated in the consultation of "churches and seminaries: appraising our ecumenical vision in today's world" in 2008. In the CCA programs it was clearly pointed out that many Asian seminaries have not mainstreamed ecumenical formation with the wider ecumenical vision. It is important for CCA-FMU to continuously engage the seminaries so they will come to embrace the wider ecumenical vision and Asian feminist theologizing. Utilizing existing programs of different theological associations, both at national and sub-regional levels, is a good way of encouraging more ownership of programs, sharing limited resources, while reaching out to a large number of people, enriching the content of the programs, and also making the presence of CCA felt at local and national levels.

**UCCP Workers Convocation
Dumaguete City, Philippines; 28 - 31 August 2009**

Objectives

- To forge a genuine partnership between the Divinity School and the church in providing quality theological education and formation program.
- To strengthen the churches through quality continuing theological education. Church officers, Christian education leaders and teachers, and persons who wish to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith will discover a rich opportunity through this program.
- To equip ordained and lay leaders to effectively address emerging and current issues in ministry and mission.
- To serve as centers for theological discourse, reflection, research and publication for the benefit of the wider church during changing times

CCA-FMU executive staff Hope S. Antone gave two Bible study lectures on the theme "Theological Education in the Midst of Crisis: Prospects and Challenges," at the 48th Church Workers Convocation of Silliman University Divinity School in Dumaguete City, Philippines on 28-30 August 2009. She pointed out that aside from the socio-economic-political crises besetting everyone, theological education is often times faced with a crisis in theology and vision. She led a re-reading of Luke 4:16-30 and affirmed that Jesus' engagement in theological education was biblically rooted, contextually grounded, oriented to the "year of the Lord's favor" [or the reign of God] and was meant for all people. The crisis in theology and vision in theological education is due to our limited or preferred

understanding of God's will and purpose, which may be self-serving and self-centered. The second Bible study lecture focused on Jonah whose limited understanding of God's salvation led to his disobedience to God and on the feeding of the 5,000 with its lessons on dealing with crisis.

Bishop Eliezer Pascua, general secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, gave the keynote address. Using 2 Peter 1:5-10, he spoke of theological education as ministerial faith formation in the virtues of goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, mutual affection and love. He said seminarians should be "students not only with brains but also with hearts; not only with minds but also with souls."

In his theme exposition, the Rev. Dr. A. Wati Longchar, dean of the Doctor of Ministry Program of the Serampore College in India, emphasized that the role of theological education is to form or equip people in the local congregation for faith, witness and service. Hence, theological education ought to take place "together with people" and based on a critical solidarity with the victims. This calls for inclusive curriculum in theology that promotes plurality and the common good.

Myanmar Institute of Theology Yangon, Myanmar; 5 - 9 October 2009

Objective

To promote the spirit of unity and solidarity among young Christian leaders but also to enable them to be instrumental to socio-political transformation, culture change, peace building, ecological awareness, and interfaith interactions.

The Rev. Dr. Rienzie Perera, Associate General Secretary for Finance and Relationships, was CCA's ecumenical lecturer at the Judson Research Center of Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon, Myanmar. The lecture was part of the ecumenical training for young church leaders and theological students on the theme, "Christian Solidarity for Life, Justice and Witness."

Around 40 participants attended coming from different denominational backgrounds, representing not only the mainline Protestant theological institutions but also the non-MCC member churches and institutions.

Duta Wacana Christian University Jogjakarta, Indonesia; 15 May 2010

Upon the invitation of the Rev. Dr. Tabita Kartika Christiani, CCA-FMU staff Hope S. Antone gave a lecture on "Religious Education in Context of Plurality and Pluralism" to a group of Christian Education majors at Duta Wacana Christian University on 15 May 2010. The group included students from bachelor to graduate levels. To avoid having a cognitive sharing only, and to be truthful to the meal table practice espoused by the author of the book (who happens to be the CCA-FMU staff), Dr. Christiani also organized a meal prior to the lecture. A good exchange happened after CCA-FMU staff presented a narrative on how the book, *Religious Education in Context of Plurality and Pluralism* came about due to the author's realization that Christian Education in Asia must also address the issue of religious plurality.

Theological College of Lanka Pilimalawa, Sri Lanka; 9-10 July 2010

Objective

To contribute to the broadening of ecumenical perspective through lectures on given topics by the host institution.

CCA-FMU staff Hope S. Antone was the chief guest at the College Day of the Theological College of Lanka. She conducted a seminar on "The Future of Wider Ecumenism in Asia" on 9 July morning, highlighting the need for wider ecumenism in Asia (including intrafaith, interfaith, relating with ideological groups, and ensuring the integrity of the whole creation). She argued that the question is not so much whether wider ecumenism in Asia has a future but how we can ensure our future through wider ecumenism. Seminar participants were current students and returning alumni of TCL, including some church leaders and faculty. In the afternoon, she gave the homily during the graduation rites and induction of the new principal, Rev. Dr. Jerome Sahabandhu. Attending were students and graduates, their families, TCL Board of Governors, other church leaders and guests, including a Buddhist monk (Ven. Bulumulle Sumanarathana Thero) and representatives of the Methodist Church in Britain. A summary of her homily is in CCA News (September 2010). On 10 July, Hope Antone met separately with the faculty and the current students, who shared a number of their concerns related to curriculum, faculty, examinations, etc. On 11 July, Hope Antone preached at the Christ Church in Kotte, where the Rev. Dr. Jayasiri Peiris is the priest on the theme, "Who is My Neighbor" based on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

PERSETIA (Association of Theological Schools in Indonesia) Tomohon, Indonesia; 19-23 July 2010

Objectives

- To provide graduate students an opportunity to gain international experience in their course work by bringing Christian scholars from abroad to teach chosen subjects.
- To provide graduate students an opportunity to fellowship and develop an ecumenical spirit as future leaders of churches.
- To provide graduate students an opportunity for in-depth discussions on issues facing the church and society they are serving.

Almost 80 graduate students participated in this two-week summer program, an annual intensive course for graduate students coming from various seminaries and universities of Indonesia, with guest lecturers coming from Indonesia and abroad. CCA-FMU staff Hope S. Antone gave a series of lectures on (a) wider ecumenism, its historical and biblical foundations, and its implications on mission, evangelism and conversion; and (b) an Asian feminist theologizing, with a practical application of the spiral of feminist theologizing in the participants' own contexts.

World Student Christian Federation Asia-Pacific Region Manado and Tomohon, Indonesia; 19-20, 23 July 2010

While in Tomohon, Hope S. Antone was also invited to lead two Bible studies on eco-feminism at the Women's Regional Committee meeting of the World Student Christian Federation Asia-Pacific Region held in Manado on 19-20 July. In the first Bible study, she led the group in exploring some passages in scripture using the lens of eco-feminism – ecology + feminism. She pointed out that despite their differences what the creation stories signify is that there is variety in God's creation. While human beings are part of creation, they are blessed with the special task of tending, caring for, and nurturing creation. God created humankind in God's image so that they will be co-creators with God and co-stewards of God's creation. The original blessing to multiply, fill the earth and subdue (have dominion) should not be understood in its heterosexist and anthropocentric, even andocentric, way nor as a license to do anything one likes with creation for profit, fame and power are never God's purposes of creating. The order in creation – from matter, to matter with life, to matter with life and soul – is not God's way of instituting

hierarchy in creation but to show the interdependence or interconnectedness of all that God created. In the second Bible study, she focused on the biblical concepts of Sabbath and Jubilee – which the biblical people attributed to God – as a holy time of rest not only for workers, but also for animals and for the land. These are revolutionary ideas with personal and communal implications.

On 23 July, she was again invited to lead one Bible study on men and women partnership this time for the WSCF A-P Regional Committee which was meeting in Tomohon.

Southern Christian College Clergywomen's Seminar Cotabato, Philippines; 19-20 October 2010

To provide a venue for clergy women to deepen their understanding and role not only in church but also in the wider society and to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a clergy women's organization, this clergywomen's seminar was organized by the Theology Faculty of the Southern Christian College in Midsayap, Cotabato, Philippines. A total of 22 clergywomen and female theology students attended the seminar with the theme, "Discerning the Role of Clergy Women in These Critical Times". They came mostly from the Cotabato Annual Conference and Southern Mindanao District Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Many serve as pastors of local churches, a few as theology faculty, and several as theology students.

CCA-FMU staff Hope S. Antone was the main resource person while the Rev. Dr. Teresita de la Cruz, dean of the SCC theology faculty, served as facilitator. The program included sharing of stories during which many cases of violence against women and sexual abuse committed by church leaders surfaced. The sharing was followed by an input on the theme by Hope S. Antone, who later did a workshop on using the Asian feminist spiral of theologizing.

Many clergywomen in Mindanao have not had a chance to attend seminars or workshops to update them on various issues. They expressed hope that a seminar like this can be open to clergy women from other denominations, for the women's and men's organizations, and also for the clergywomen's husbands.

National Theological Workshop in Thailand on: “Redeeming God’s Creation” Bangkok, Thailand; 6-10 November 2010

Objective

To provide a space for theological discussions on ecological issues, focusing on “Redeeming God’s Creation” in the Thai context.

Many ‘Evangelicals’ and ‘Pentecostals’ attended and actively participated in the workshop. Concepts of an Asian way of doing theology of creation were introduced and intensively discussed. A large number of future theologians (M. Div. students of BIT) were actively involved and helped as stewards at the same time. The morning devotion was organized by students. Although the participants found the theme very timely and very well expounded, it was generally felt that there was too little time to discuss more on the given theme. More multi-media presentations should be used for following workshops, which also could be a way to bridge the language barrier for some participants. The group recommended that workshops on national level be held regularly, especially in Thailand.

Sub-Regional Theological Workshops on “Called to Prophecy, Reconcile and Heal” (CCA General Assembly Theme 2010)

South Asia

Chennai, India; 26-30 July 2009

South East Asia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 16-20 August 2009

South East Asia (Mekong Countries)

Chiang Mai, Thailand; 30 August - 3 September 2009

North East Asia

Taiwan; 9-14 September 2009

Objectives

- To provide space and opportunity for theological discussion on the General Assembly theme 2010, “Called to Prophecy, Reconcile and Heal”
- To provide a venue for discussion on emerging theological issues in the sub-regions
- To identify contributors and authors for the CCA publication on the assembly theme
- To Provide a venue for discussion on comments and suggestions for the next five years of CCA, according to the General Assembly theme

In the year 2009, one year before the 13th General Assembly of Christian Conference of Asia, a series of

Theological Workshops were organized. To provide a platform for sharing common concerns related to the theme, four workshops were organized in different sub-regions (South Asia, South East Asia, South East Asia Mekong Ecumenical Partnership Program Region, and North East Asia). The purpose of holding the workshops in different sub-regions were multiple: (1) To enable a wider participation and discover emerging and young theologians; (2) To provide a platform of sharing commonly shared concerns in each respective sub-region; (3) To organize the workshops in a most cost-effective way.

While every program area committed themselves to contribute towards the General Assembly, FMU-Theological Concerns decided to organise a series of theological workshops to produce theological reflections on the assembly theme for later publication. The publication project was initiated by Rev. Dr. Rienzie Perera, and went through collective comments and reflections. Countless and invaluable comments and reflections enabled the project process to come to a final stage. All papers in this publication can be claimed to be owned by CCA and all who belong to it. This publication can be proudly presented to all Asian churches, since we all were involved in the work.

The first workshop was held in Chennai, India at the CSI (Church of South India) Centre. The great significance of this meeting is that it was the first workshop of this series and is directly linked to other activities in order to promote CCA’s presence in India. Selected participants from this workshop were invited to a youth leadership program on Mission jointly organized by CCA-FMU and CCA-EGY and Vichara, as resource persons.

During this program in Kottayam, the CCA delegation had the opportunity to visit member churches in this area (Syrian Orthodox Church, etc.). After the program, which was held at the Orthodox Seminary in Kottayam, the CCA delegation proceeded to the Diocese of East Kerala, where the delegation was invited to each preach in eight Churches of the Diocese. Bishop K. G. Daniel, Bishop of the Diocese of East Kerala graciously hosted a reception at the Bishop’s residence together with all the executive committee members of the diocese.

The second workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, generously hosted by CCM (Council of Churches in Malaysia). In the third workshop held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the CCA General Secretary, Dr. Prawate Khid-arn delivered the keynote address where all CCA staff were present.

The fourth workshop held in Taiwan was generously hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT). Right before the workshop the southern part of Taiwan was hit by a flood, like many other regions in Asia, due to climate change. All participants at the workshop felt that we should express our solidarity with the suffering people in the southern part of Taiwan and issued a pastoral letter duly signed and was handed by the CCA Associate General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Rienzie Perera to the vice moderator of PCT at a CCA hosted reception.

The discussions in each sub-region showed that there are commonly shared concerns regarding the assembly theme. FMU received positive and encouraging comments to move forward with the same method. Each sub-region shared their specific and common concerns. The 'MEPP workshop', - the theological workshop held in South East Asia, for the five Mekong countries such as: Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, in partnership with the Mekong Ecumenical Partnership Program (MEPP) - shared common issues like sex- tourism, human trafficking and poverty. Special attention was given to the situation of the Churches in this region, where many suffer from a big lack of trained and qualified theological leaders and ministers. Due to the close border lines, one of the MEPP region's main concerns is about refugees and migrant labor.

Both South Asia and North East Asia shared their deep concern about nuclear issues that reflect the geopolitical situation and affect people's security in each respective sub-region. Issues like poverty, violence and fundamentalism were raised during the workshop in Kuala Lumpur, participated by representatives from Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia.

For each workshop two or more representatives from other sub-regions were invited to provide inbound and outbound channel to outside the sub-region. For these cases invitees for the next workshop in another sub-region were mostly invited to carry forth the experiences and results of the discussions to their own sub-region.

Fifth Gathering of the Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU V) Bangkok, Thailand; 1-5 December 2010

To affirm the wider meaning of Christian unity in Asia and prepare action plans that demonstrate participants' commitment to pray and work for unity in their own context, AMCU V was jointly organized by CCA and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences' Office

of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. CCA and FABC each had a delegation of 12 while the Asia Evangelical Alliance had 5. This is the second time for AEA to attend AMCU. For the first time the Asia Pentecostal Society was also represented, with support from the Global Christian Forum.

The theme of AMCU V was "One in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer" (cf. Acts 2:42) – the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2011. Participants from each group spoke as panelists on three theme topics: (a) One in the Teaching of the Apostles; (b) One in the Gift and Task of Fellowship in Christ; (c) One in Breaking the Bread and Prayer. Discussion starters were done by some participants on key issues: (a) conflict transformation, (b) interfaith relations and cooperation, (c) promoting human dignity and (d) care for creation.

There were some initial apprehensions on the theme – that it would touch on very sensitive doctrinal issues and traditions that could not be resolved – e.g. on the Eucharist, women's ordination. Yet it turned out to be an honest and open sharing, with questions for one another, raised honestly but gently, and there was also the willingness to listen to each other. Each side tried to respond to questions raised simply to explain their positions without being too necessarily defensive. The group recommended the holding of the AMCU gathering every three years – with a three-year cycle of CATS, ACTS and AMCU. But it was strongly suggested that efforts of relating and working with the different churches should be pursued at the local level.

Ecumenical Enablers' Training

Cambodia Phnom Penh, Cambodia; 15-21 March 2009

Objectives

- To complete the theological training of the second batch of pastors and teachers as well as youth leaders of KCC;
- To equip them with skills in reading the Bible contextually and critically, in doing contextual theologizing, and in the practical ways of doing the ministry of the church.

This Ecumenical Enablers' Training is part of CCA-FMU's commitment to accompany young or new members of CCA, by equipping their pastors and church leaders who may not have access to ecumenical theological education. The first batch of trainees in Cambodia graduated in 2007. This training was for the second batch of 28 people who already

started their training in 2007. However, due to health and schedule problems, only 5 of the second batch could return for the training. Still churches sent other persons for the training so there were 25 participants in total, 7 of which were women and a good number were young people (30 years old and below).

Main resource persons were Dr. A Wati Longchar (former consultant for CCA-WCC Ecumenical Theological Education) and Dr. Hope S. Antone of CCA-FMU. Although we already had a module for the training we revised it in view of the nature of this new group. Topics included the following: (a) Bible and Ministry; (b) How the Bible Came to Us; (c) Use and Misuse of the Bible; (d) Jesus' Approaches to the Bible; (e) Contextual Reading of the Bible; (f) Life and Ministry of the Church – which included community, liturgy, teaching, proclamation, and service/outreach. We also invited two Asian missionaries – Rev. Wati Longkumer and Rev. Dr. Romeo del Rosario, with Phnom Penh Bible School and Methodist Bible School, respectively, to connect KCC with the Bible schools in Cambodia.

The strength of this training lies in the consistency of our ecumenical and contextual perspective which under-girds the modules. We have also been flexible in our approach – paying attention always to the needs and suggestions of the participants. Our hope is that we have been able to broaden the minds of around 50 Khmer pastors, youth and women leaders. Though we may not be able to see the immediate result, but at least we have planted the seeds. One of the weaknesses of this training is our reliance on translation and sometimes theological terminology can be so difficult to translate into a local language or dialect.

Nepal

Lalitpur, Nepal; 5-11 April 2009

Objectives

- To train selected 25-30 church and lay leaders from churches in Nepal in the wider ecumenical vision and in Asian contextual theologizing;
- To accompany the work of the young National Council of Churches of Nepal (NCCN) through this ecumenical training.
- To help dispel negative perceptions of ecumenism and the ecumenical movement which have kept the Christians divided in Nepal.

The Ecumenical Enablers' Training for Nepal started in April 2009 in Lalitpur with 28 participants (5 women), including pastors, youth committee members, and

women's committee members of local churches. Rev. Dr. John V. John (from Bishop's College), Rev. Dr. A. Wati Longchar (from Serampore University), and Dr. Hope S. Antone (from CCA-FMU) were the main resource persons. Inputs were on ecumenism and ecumenical vision, and reading the Bible from various perspectives – health and healing, disability, Dalit, people, ecological, consumerism, women, interfaith and reading Jesus' parables today.

Responses from participants included the following: *"I have attended a similar training before but I have learned much more from this training. I have also read the Bible many times before but this training gave me a new way of reading the Bible. The presentation on ecumenism based on Genesis 1 was impressive and unforgettable – now I will look at creation differently and see myself as part of God's creation. I hope that CCA can continue to support us so we can hold trainings like this in other parts of Nepal."* [Birbahadur Tamang, a pastor from Chitwan district and a B. Th. second year student in Kathmandu]

Thank you so much for the teaching you have given us about Ecumenism. I was so much blessed from that training. Actually this kind of program is the most important in the Nepali Christian society in this moment. And this important role is played by CCA and NCCN. I thank the Lord because God is working through the CCA and NCCN in Nepal in such a vital role. I hope in the future CCA and NCCN will organize the program which can help the Nepali Church to grow. [Nar Bahadur Pulami James, graduating student at Maranatha Mission College, Kathmandu, Nepal]

There is so much hunger for knowledge in Nepal. Comments from those studying in Bible schools reveal that they have learned a lot from this training and how they wished that similar trainings could be held in key areas of the regions outside Kathmandu. I believe that through this training we were able to dispel some misconceptions of ecumenism. The methodology of the training was also appealing to the participants – approaching various life issues with the Bible as the starting point.

Publications

CCA-FMU staffs put out three publications in connection with the 13th CCA General Assembly. Hope Antone edited the special edition of CTC Bulletin featuring Bible studies in preparation for the General Assembly and Life Together: Memories and Dreams, a collection of stories in commemoration of CCA's 50th anniversary. Sungkook Park coordinated the production of Asia Sunday 2010 liturgy booklet.

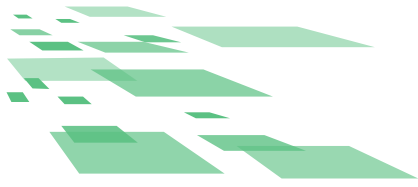
Two editions of CTC Bulletin came out in 2010 - one in June and another in December. Starting in 2010 CTCB will only come out in two editions per year – this is an effort to minimize the use of paper. The June edition featured the papers presented at the Sixth Congress of Asian Theologians while the December edition featured the special presentations (Bible studies, DT Niles Lectures, homilies) at the 13th CCA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

Scholarships for Ministerial Formation and Theological Education

CCA-FMU received more requests for scholarship this year and allocated the little fund available according to the greater need and prioritizing those from the countries specified by the scholarship.



The Most Rev. Roger Herft, homilist at the opening worship of the 13th CCA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, with the participants of the 2010 Asia Ecumenical Course. The 2010 AEC team helped animate the worship and Bible Study sessions during the Assembly.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE (JID)

*Mr. Carlos Ocampo, Joint Executive Secretary
Rev. Freddy de Alwis, Joint Executive Secretary*

Post Nargis Cyclone Review Visit to Myanmar Yangon, Myanmar; January 14 – 18, 2009

The ecumenical visit to Myanmar on 15 – 17 January 2009 organized by CCA in cooperation with the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC) observed the rehabilitation work being done by the victims of cyclone Nargis themselves.

The Myanmar Solidarity Committee, composed of partners in CCA's rehabilitation work with the Nargis victims, visited several rehabilitation projects together with local partners in Myanmar. The visit is part of CCA's ministry of accompaniment, particularly with the people of Myanmar as they struggle to rise from the ruins of Nargis.

Different rehabilitation projects were carried out in fifty-two villages but due to limitations of time and logistical difficulties the visiting team was able to go to only a few of the projects. Travel to the projects was difficult and risky but the team members were happy to meet the people and the people were happy to meet them too.

The members of the Myanmar Solidarity Committee were satisfied with the reporting done by the people responsible for the implementation of the rehabilitation program. The verbal reports were supported by written documents and these were reliable.

The response of the people was encouraging as they were more than happy for CCA's commitment to be with them and to walk with them. CCA and its member churches and councils will be with them as an accompanying presence as long as they want.

National Consultation on Global Warming In India Chennai, India; 12 – 14 February 2009

Global warming and other environmental problems are issues that the world grapples with today, and churches are called to be ecologically accountable.

A National Consultation on Global Warming on February 12 – 14, 2009 organized by the Church of South India (CSI) in association with the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) and the South Asia Ecumenical Partnership Program (SAEPP) urged the churches in India to incorporate eco-concerns in its mission agenda.

The consultation was to follow up an international ecumenical consultation held in Korea in May 2008 on the theme, *Ecology, Economy and Accountability* organized by CCA.

In the context of global warming, depletion of scarce ground water and rising of the sea water level, the challenge is to change our values and life styles, and to rethink and redefine our understanding of development, our attitude towards nature, human freedom and accountability to one another and to God's creation.

A statement issued by participants called upon all concerned to address the grave issue of global warming with due urgency, since it is key to our global survival and relationship dynamics. The statement affirmed that evidently global warming causes profound climate changes affecting the very survival of God's creation. A recommended mission agenda for churches to follow are:

- Promote ecumenical green movements
- Adopt alternative energy sources

- Create awareness at all levels
- Review vision and mission statements from an eco-perspective
- View environmental problems from a victims' perspective
- Engage proactively on Climate Justice
- Ensure the rights of the vulnerable communities
- Associate with other faiths and religions to address ecological issues
- Liaison with government and network with movements to combat practices that perpetuate global warming, and
- Mobilise and influence public opinion on relevant policy changes

Bishop Rev Thomas Samuel, chair of the CSI Synod Ecological Concerns Committee stressed that concerns on climatic changes should have a matching action plan in a time-bound manner, apart from evolving a global and inter-religious perspective.

CCA encourages churches to tackle the issue of global warming and to use our spiritual resources in the task of transforming the world to become a place free from violence, greed and craving for material goods in the name of globalization and modernization.

Ecumenical Visit to Sri Lanka Colombo, Sri Lanka; 9-14 February 2009

The visit was envisaged to discuss with the Sri Lankan churches the conflict situation in Sri Lanka and its impact on the internally-displaced population and the work of the churches in preparation for a South Asian Consultation on Peace, Security and Development with a focus on Sri Lanka.

Group meetings with Sri Lankan ecumenical leaders were held:

- A meeting with the Inter-Religious Peace Foundation, a network of members of the Christian clergy, Buddhist monks, and leaders of NGOs and the wider civil society. Fifteen (15) representatives of IRPF participated in the meeting. The meeting discussed the current situation of people fleeing the conflict zones and the internally displaced; the extent of need and the continuing threat on the lives and security of the population trapped in the conflict zone. Participants also shared their plans for a humanitarian response when conditions in the

region will allow emergency and social services to be delivered to the victims trapped in a firing zone. They also suggested possible intervention from the UN, the World Council of Churches and the international community.

- The JID Executive Secretary also met with leaders of opposition political party leaders and ecumenical friends who shared their perspectives of the conflict.
- The Centre for Policy Alternatives under the leadership of Mr. Rohan Edrisinhe,, convened a meeting of NGO leaders who have conducted a fact-finding survey of the needs of the internally displaced and the dire situation in the government-run camps. They also presented future scenarios based on the final stage of the conflict will develop

International Consultation on “Towards, Peace, Security and Development in South Asia Bangalore, India; March 31 - April 2, 2009

The international consultation was jointly planned and organized by the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia, following reciprocal ecumenical visits of Dr. Sam Kobia, WCC General Secretary to Sri Lanka and the Rev. Jayasiri Peiris, NCC-SL General Secretary in Geneva. One of the main foci of the Consultation was the conflict in Sri Lanka and how the churches can effectively respond from the South Asian region and beyond.

In his keynote presentation, Dr. Ninan Koshy, former Director for International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, emphasized the changing geopolitical realities in South Asia and the role of global political interests that have exacerbated the growing religious fundamentalism and violence. He challenged the churches to re-define peace and security from the perspective of the oppressed and powerless and to strengthen democratic institutions.

Biblical reflections dealing with shalom, reconciliation and people's security were presented by the Rev. Fr. Joseph Pathrapankal of the Anugraha Renewal Centre and the Rev. Dr. KC Abraham, former director of the ECC. Country situations from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were also presented. Sri Lankan ecumenical leaders took turns in reporting on the state of the conflict, the conditions of the IDPs, and ecumenical initiatives that help mitigate the impact of the war on the vulnerable sections of the population. The Philippine ecumenical initiatives on peace were

also presented as a particular model of responding to conflicts and generating international support.

A number of recommendations were made at the final plenary session, including the role which churches in India can play in fostering peace and reconciliation and strengthening inter-faith dialogue and cooperation by organizing pastoral visits, dialogues with local government officials, and in increasing peace-related initiatives for young people and communities in Sri Lanka. A Working Group was elected to follow up and find ways of prioritizing and implementing the recommendations from the Consultation

**Consultation on Mission and Development:
In Search of Theological Interpretations
of Disaster Situations
Yangon, Myanmar; 7 – 8 October 2009**

On May 2, 2008 Cyclone Nargis struck the coast of Myanmar with devastating effects for the Irrawaddy and Yangon Divisions. Of the 7.3 Million people living in affected townships it is estimated that 2.4 million people were severely affected by the Cyclone. It caused devastating loss of life with an estimated 140,000 people killed or missing. The lives and livelihood of survivors were also severely disrupted with up to 800,000 people displaced, 450,000 houses destroyed and substantial losses of food stocks, equipment, infrastructure and paddy.

In an area like Myanmar where poverty is high and daily survival is a major task for many people, and where people are traumatized daily, the question of an appropriate understanding of Mission and Mission strategy is quite obvious. How do we, as Christians react to a situation like this and how could be the Church become the good news?

The evaluation workshop brought together pastors, field workers, to share their experiences on how they reacted as Christians during and after the disaster. The outcome of this evaluation workshop will be published as part of the “Nargis Forum Publications” as a contribution and an educational resource for theological reflections in difficult situations.

**Asian Ecumenical Consultation on Churches’
Adaptation on Climate Change
“Reinvigorating Climate Justice, Building Church”
Central Java, Indonesia; 9 –13 November 2009**

A four-day second international conference on Ecology, Economy and Accountability was held in Salatiga, Indonesia on November 09 - 13, 2009 with the participation of ecumenical Church leaders, partners and NGO workers. Twenty-seven delegates came from thirteen Asian countries and stimulated the interactions, Bible studies, workshops, country presentations, exposure visits, and drafted an Action Plan.

The conference gathered leaders from churches, national councils and communities, ecologists and environmental activists to explore and decide on the course of action to build up local campaigns and a coalition for Asian churches. The campaign plan and coalition will help pressure participants’ respective governments and authorities to conduct awareness building and advocacy programs at national and regional levels, and also to form a work group to cooperate with JID.

The conference evaluation revealed a generally high level of satisfaction among participants, although the benefits of some sessions were reduced by the limited time allocation. Maximum benefits from the conference will only be attained through the commitment of participants to refine and implement the Action Plans drawn up on the final day. CCA’s JID would assist in this process.

**Coalition Building and Empowering Migrant
Workers’ Support Groups in Sri Lanka
Colombo, Sri Lanka; 20-21 November 2009**

Sri Lanka is a migrant workers sending country with nearly ten percent of its population serving in various receiving countries in the world. These migrant workers consist of documented as well as undocumented workers. The statistics are not confirmed as the Sri Lankan bureau for foreign employment collects data only from government agencies while many are using unofficial channels to work abroad.

Migrant workers and their families face many issues and rights violations which need urgent remedies. Majority of migrant workers are women working under very poor working conditions and suffer abuses. Many

reported cases are unattended due to poor attention given by the state and weak involvement of civil society.

The government recently developed a National Labour Migration Policy, which intends to protect human rights of female migrant workers but without any legal teeth. The state mechanism is more interested in taxes and in regulating recruitment agencies instead of safe-guarding migrants' rights and welfare.

There are organization working with migrant workers but many of them are looking into the welfare of migrant workers, with poor attention to rights and advocacy. Therefore there is a great need to empower those who work with migrant workers through rights-based approach ministry. Further, there is also a need for coalition-building among migrant workers and their advocates in different sectors like the faith, NGO and media communities.

The consultation aimed to introduce a human rights-based approach to doing migrant advocacy work; to build coalitions for information sharing and networking among likeminded groups; and to link Sri Lankan migrant workers organizations with international groups. There was also sharing of feedback from the Global Gathering of GFMD (Global Forum on Migration and Development), and analysis of the updated trends in Sri Lankan migration work situation.

Workshop themes included Migrants Rights are Human Rights, positive developments in other countries in Asia on Migrants Rights and Reintegration, using human rights-based approach in Migrant Development, Sri Lankan migration trends, and recruiting agents' perspectives.

A Migrants Rights Coalition by Interfaith Partners, a Migrant Rights Coalition by Media, and a Migrant Workers Trade Union were formed as a result of the consultation.

Joint Ecumenical Visit to Cambodia Cambodia; February 23-26, 2010

Freddy De Alwis joined the Rev. Huh, Chung Jung and Janejinda Pawadee from the Mekong Ecumenical Partnership Program (MEPP) to see the situation of the churches in Cambodia in preparation for conducting a Development Management training, and to meet with leaders of the KCC and visit churches in Cambodia.

Joint Memorandum of Understanding between CCA and ARI

An agreement has been signed between Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Japan and CCA based on scholarships provided to leaders in Asian churches and ecumenical organizations.

The People's Forum Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; April 12-13, 2010

The People's Forum is one of four CCA Pre-Assembly events. Its objectives were -

- To initiate a creative dialogue between churches and peoples movements and to draw implications for churches' mission among the broken, bruised and brutalized people and communities in Asia;
- To initiate a network among churches and movements where it does not exist and to renew and strengthen existing networks;
- To work out an Action Plan enabling churches at national and regional levels to work together in solidarity to overcome forces that divide and suppress people's rights; and
- To issue a Forum Statement identifying the principalities and powers which are denying life to people and challenging the churches to focus on mission that affirms their witness to Jesus Christ.

The Forum was an attempt to initiate a creative dialogue between churches and peoples movements and to draw implications for churches' mission among the broken, bruised and brutalized people and communities in Asia; to initiate a network among churches and movements where it does not exist and to renew and strengthen existing networks; to work out an Action Plan enabling churches at national and regional levels to work together in solidarity to overcome forces that divide and suppress people's rights; and to issue a Forum Statement identifying the principalities and powers which are denying life to people and challenging the churches to focus on mission that affirms their witness to Jesus Christ.

The two-day Forum was made up of biblical reflection on mission, a critique of the CCA vision and directions from its founding parents' (EACC) perspectives; recovering the URM ecumenical perspectives and approaches; peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula; responses to conflict situations in India and the Philippines; and justice in tourism.

Ten resource persons were invited from outside the Assembly to deliberate on mission and ecumenical perspectives reflecting people's issues and aspirations that can inform and strengthen CCA's program on justice, international affairs, development and service.

Recommendations, assessments and reflections

Participants raised the question of program integration in the JID cluster, but also commended the Forum for being timely and an attempt to recover ecumenical perspectives in areas of human rights, peace, ecological justice and just tourism.

The Forum provided a historical overview and program recommendations that helped in guiding and firming up the mandates for the JID programs for 2011 to 2015; the quality of the deliberations served to clarify and refocus JID programs following the Kuala Lumpur Assembly; and the need for better integration of program planning by the JID joint executive secretaries.

School of Peace for Northeast Asia Church Workers Hong Kong SAR, China; August 23-30, 2010

The School of Peace is an annual training course offered by CCA to peace advocates in the churches, providing them with basic knowledge and skills in dealing with conflict situations and in promoting the values of peace and human security.

The basic approach adopted is participatory learning with the goal of empowerment of parties involved in the conflict and towards conflict resolution and social transformation. The curriculum includes – six dimensions of peace; understanding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; peacemaking, peace keeping and peace building; theories of conflicts; conflict management strategies; mediation; ethnicity and gender factors in conflicts; political advocacy; conflict resolution methods; and documentation.

Worship, biblical reflections, morning meditation, and country reports form a major part of the Course. The exposure experience with migrant workers, refugees and people at the margins in Hong Kong society were hosted by the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), and the Christian Hostel which gave very helpful insights and experience on the pockets of poverty in Hong Kong, where people are in need of assistance and support from churches.

Country reports from Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines provided the contexts in which peace needs to be pursued and formed the good basis for developing a regional peace agenda for churches in Northeast Asia.

Fact Finding Mission to Pakistan Pakistan; August 29 - September 3, 2010

Objective

To identify practical responses to the floods in Pakistan and to express solidarity with the victims and the CCA member churches and NCC Pakistan.

The Visit

The floods inundated and rendered victims almost 20 percent of the population of Pakistan. CCA designated the Rev. Freddy de Alwis to visit Pakistan representing CCA members. The visit was both a look-see and a fact-finding visit to see the extent of the devastation and to offer practical support.

The team, including staff from the NCC Pakistan went to the emergency sites and saw the suffering of people, including children in camps, pregnant women, and people who are in desperate of medical care and some almost dying. People were saying "has God abandoned us?" It is told people die in Pakistan of bombings, drone attacks, and even from starvation; floods and landslides are just added to this list. "Is this the world God created and entrusted to us to care for as good stewards?" How can we share this God-given, civilized world only to allow people to die as a result of human greed? What can we offer each other to liberate the world from captivity from the forces of Mammon towards one that cares for each other under God's sovereignty?

A medical mission plan was drawn up following this visit.

The Asian International Ecumenical Consultation on 'Ecology, Economy and Accountability' on the theme, 'Pathos of Climate Refugees' Bangalore, India; October 5-10, 2010

Objectives

- To bringing together church leaders, ecologists, environmental activists to discuss and plan a course of action to build up local campaigns to lobby their own authorities, governments and also to implement awareness building and

advocacy programs at community, national and regional level

- To gather religious communities and draw spiritual insights from their religious traditions towards forming an inter-religious movement of activists for the protection of the environment
- To identify and bring together farmers addressing the adverse effects of pesticides and advocating for alternative life giving agriculture

CCA - JID in cooperation with the Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), organized this Third Asian Ecumenical Consultation on 'Ecology, Economy and Accountability' on the theme 'Pathos of Climate Refugees' in Bangalore on October 5-10, 2010. Thirty-four participants including 11 women and 9 clergy women and men representing CCA and NCCI Member Churches, and from 11 Asian countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Korea, New Zealand, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

The Statement of the consultation on "Pathos of climate refugees" acknowledged the following impact of climate change on people and communities -

- Increased natural disasters, such as drought, flood and cyclone
- Shortage of food and water, faced especially by the poor and the marginalized
- Threat to public health due to increasing pollution, water related diseases, and death due to natural disasters
- Change in ecosystems in terms of biodiversity and living conditions
- Melting of glaciers and snow; and
- Rise in sea level.

The participants urged the churches, individual Christians and civil society movements in the region to, among others

- enable the faith community to understand climate change as climate injustice and the colonization of the wider community
- create awareness in children and young people through incorporating climate justice concerns into the Sunday school curriculum
- establish eco-justice commissions with full time coordinators in all churches/dioceses and ecumenical organizations
- initiate carbon auditing of all churches and Christian organizations, and make alternative energy policies and practices

- engage in inter-faith initiatives in solidarity with climate justice movements
- create awareness on the impact of tourism on nature and subaltern communities, and encourage just tourism.

Ecumenical visit with churches in Bhubaneshwar, Kandhamal and Shillong, Northeast India 18-21; 25-26 October 2010

Charlie Ocampo, CCA-JID Joint Executive Secretary visited Kandhamal on the invitation of Bishop Kumar Nayak of the Phulbani Diocese in Orissa. He joined a team including Mr. Christopher Rajkumar, Justice and Peace Executive Secretary with the National Council of Churches in India, and Mr. Angelou Michael, NCCI Vice President, and met with victims of the burning of churches and houses there from 2007 to 2009. One hundred and three church buildings were razed to the ground and 10,000 people were rendered homeless by the conflagration. People pleaded to our visiting team for livelihood skills in tailoring, food production and computer work. However, many of the families consider the rebuilding of churches to be a more urgent priority than their houses.

The visit in Shillong in the northeastern corridor of India was hosted by the Presbyterian Church in India, and included a visit with the John Roberts Theological Seminary, a halfway house of indigenous migrant workers and single mothers, and the social service programs of the local Presbyterian congregations. Charlie Ocampo also met with the leaders of the Presbyterian Church in their headquarters accompanied by the Rev. Basiamoit, NCCI Vice President.

The Diocese of Phulbani is grateful for the visit of the Team, and particularly for the concern and solidarity from CCA directly to a member church (CNI). A follow up on the recommended livelihood training can be facilitated by CCA in partnership with the CCDB in Bangladesh and other India-based micro-credit organizations. Solidarity will have to be shown in more concrete ways in consultation with NCCI's Justice and Peace Commission and the CNI Philbani Diocese.

The visit in Shillong with the Presbyterian Church is a concrete step in CCA's direct involvement with member churches in India. There are a number of opportunities for theological exchanges, internship and representation in CCA programs in the future.

Recommendations –

- To follow up on the Kandhamal visit by helping organize livelihood training with the support of CCDB in Bangladesh or local micro-credit groups in India in consultation with the NCCI and the CNI Phulbani Diocese.
- To explore possibilities of exchanges in theological education, youth internship and program with women involving the Presbyterian Church in India

Eco-justice Ministries and Theological Education NCCI Campus, Nagpur, India; November 19-21, 2010

Objectives

- To train, equip and enrich twenty-five theological educators from theological seminaries/colleges who will train their respective students for eco-justice ministries
- To enhance a highly accomplished, creative and knowledgeable group of strategic theological thinkers towards eco-justice activism
- To enhance the ministries of NCCI and CCA Member Churches by equipping their sponsored theological students to take up ecology-related concerns towards promoting eco-justice
- To print and circulate 1000 copies of the Eco-justice Policy among member churches of NCCI and CCA. This can be a theological education strategy to address climate justice issues using the 'Green Theology' Course of the Senate of Serampore University and also by organizing staff enrichment programs

CCA in partnership with the Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), and Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College (University) organized this joint workshop on Eco-justice Ministries and Theological Education. Prof. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Professor of Christian Ethics at the University of Seattle, USA, Rev. Dr. Wati Longchar, Director, South Asia Theological Research Institute, Dr. George Zachariah, Professor of Christian Ethics at the Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, and R. Christopher Rajkumar, NCC India Executive Secretary, Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation served as workshop facilitators.

CCA Reaching Out Beyond Asia

From time to time, CCA is called upon to support initiatives beyond Asia, mostly in collaboration with the World Council of Churches, other ecumenical regional, and international organizations

- International Dalit Solidarity Conference, in cooperation with the World Council of Churches; Bangkok, Thailand; March 21-24, 2009. "The Bangkok Declaration" is a Statement passed by the Conference, lining up recommendations for the churches in India and other countries with Dalit populations to support the cause of the Dalit people.
- Asia and Pacific AGAPE Consultation on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology, organized with the Pacific Conference of Churches, the World Council of Churches and the Church of Christ in Thailand, held in Chiang Mai on 2-6 November 2009. The Consultation featured Hearing Sessions on Women, Youth and Indigenous Peoples on the impact of wealth creation on poverty on Asia and the Pacific. "The Chiang Mai Declaration" highlights the socio-economic, ecological and spiritual impact of people's impoverishment brought about by corporate greed and public policy and calls on churches and people's organizations to act, educate and empower victim communities and strengthen faith-based networks in Asia and the Pacific;
- The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum, convened by the World Council of Churches and hosted by the Jerusalem Inter-Church Committee was held in Beit Jala near Bethlehem on June 12-15, 2009. Asian churches are committed to support the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel, and the campaign to freeze all settlement activities, boycott settlement products, and to accompany the Middle East Council of Churches in its theology, advocacy and work among migrants;
- Tozanso 25th Anniversary Conference was held in Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong, attended by 135 church leaders, academics and peace advocates from Korea, Asia, Oceania, Europe and North America. The Conference was a rare occasion where church leaders from North and South Korea were present to reflect biblically and to share their common search for peace, human security, and reunification on the Korean

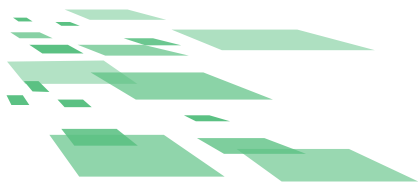
peninsula. CCA member churches and Councils continue to monitor developments in the peninsula and to support the campaign to replace the current Armistice Agreement with a Peace Treaty;

- Nuclear Disarmament and a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, an initiative by Korean churches which played host to a Meeting of Ecumenical Peace Advocates in Hwacheon near the demilitarized zone north of Seoul, Korea attended by a group of twenty representatives from Canada, Fiji, Korea, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines and the USA, who met from December 4-6, 2009. The Hwacheon Call “For a World of Peace and Free of Nuclear Weapons” was addressed to the worldwide ecumenical community to cooperate in the active campaign to rid the world of any threat posed by nuclear weapons.
- The Article 9 campaign against militarism and to uphold the Peace Clause in the Japanese Constitution has established an International Campaign Network after holding two International Conferences in 2007 (Tokyo) and 2009 (Seoul). A third Conference is being planned for 2011 to be held in Okinawa.

- A “World Without Empire” Conference was held at the Union Theological Seminary, New York, USA, convened by the Peace for Life, a global network of peace advocates actively engaged in promoting world peace and resisting empire. CCA is a founding member of Peace for Life, and Charlie Ocampo, Executive Secretary for JID sits in its Continuing Committee;
- The Gothenburg Solidarity Conference held in London, October 28-31, 2010 was an initiative by Christian Council of Sweden, the Swedish Mission Council, and the Life and Peace Institute to highlight the growing transfers of military equipment and small arms especially in the global south. CCA hosted an Asian Consultation in Chiang Mai in 2008 known as the Chiang Mai Process. A follow up Consultation is being planned in 2011 on the recommendation of the Rev. Sivin Kit, Lutheran Church in Malaysia, Mr. Cesar Villanueva, Pax Christi Philippines, and Father Nithiya of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences, who represented CCA in the London Conference.



Dalit Christians victims of conflagration in Kandhamal, Orissa, India.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

HIV AND AIDS PROGRAM

Dr Erlinda Senturias, Consultant

Development of Educational Resource Materials for Capacity Building and Building HIV Competent Faith Based Communities

Three publications were completed during this period:

A Handbook on HIV and AIDS: Guidelines for an Interfaith Response

This is a publication of the Asian Interfaith Network on AIDS (AINA) supported by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the member organizations of AINA. This handbook is the result of the collaborative effort of faith communities responding to HIV and AIDS conceptualized in 2006 but the writing part of the content was only started in November 2008 and completed in May 2009. It also contains drawings of children living with HIV and AIDS, which are part of the collection of The Church of Christ in Thailand AIDS Ministry (CAM). The book was first distributed to members of the CCA Round Table Meeting of Ecumenical Partners on 9 July 2009 and launched in Bali on August 8, 2009.

The interfaith handbook aims and objectives are:

- to give information, education and communication skills in HIV and AIDS and raise awareness on issues of stigma and discrimination, human rights, prevention, capacity building program, management, monitoring and evaluation;
- to enhance the spirit of love, compassion, mutual support and solidarity among people of different faiths that will lead to the cessation of suffering of the people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and give an authentic witness of collective and common endeavor; and
- To facilitate learning experience through trainings geared towards a holistic response to the HIV and AIDS crisis, in accordance with faith beliefs, sacred scriptures and religious traditions.

2009 World AIDS Day Liturgy Guide Live the Promise on HIV and AIDS: Universal Access and Human Rights

This publication is sent electronically and as a hard copy to the member churches and councils of CCA. The main liturgy was produced by Rev. Terry MacArthur and commissioned by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, of which CCA is a member organization. It also contains some suggestions for World AIDS Day celebration from contributors in the Asia region. The booklet contains the CCA HIV and AIDS Policy.

Policy on HIV and AIDS for Churches: Equipping Churches in Asia to be 'HIV and AIDS competent'

This brochure is for dissemination to member churches and councils to encourage them to develop their own policy or to adopt the policy formulated during a writeshop (Bali, 4-6 August) commissioned by the CCA General Committee in Dhaka in September 2008 and approved by the CCA General Committee in Bangkok on 1 October 2009.

Building HIV Competent Churches: Called to Prophecy, Reconcile and Heal

The outcomes of the Writeshop on HIV and AIDS in Bali, Indonesia on August 4-6, 2009, Seminar Workshop on HIV Awareness in East Timor on August 12-13, 2009, Pre-Assembly forum of PLHIV+ and Asian Theological Reflection on HIV were published in "Building HIV Competent Churches: Called to Prophecy, Reconcile and Heal". The publication was edited by Dr. Erlinda N. Senturias and Dr. Liza B. Lamis and supported by the Hong Kong Christian Council, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican Church in Hong Kong), Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, Regional Office in Bangkok) and United

Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA, Regional Office in Bangkok). The publication will be used in seminar workshops on Building HIV Competent Churches in Asia. The book also contains the test for HIV Competent Churches developed by the Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). The book is also meant to implement the recommendations of the CCA Policy on HIV and AIDS and the Message of the Pre Assembly Forum to the Churches in Asia.

National HIV Awareness Workshop and Capacity Building

Four HIV Awareness Workshops were held:

- Accompanying one of the Kasapulan (convention) meetings on HIV and AIDS Awareness by the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches held in Odiongan, Romblon on July 17-18. There is an outstanding request to gather all the ten Kasapulan for sharing of experiences following the awareness building seminars.
- East Timor in cooperation with the woman's group of the Protestant Churches in East Timor (IPTL), August 10-13. Dr. Liza Lamis, Ms. Dominica Faurillo and Dr. Erlinda Senturias echoed the skills building sessions during the Bali meeting: eliminating stigma and discrimination, building HIV Competent Faith Communities, and advocacy, networking and collaboration. Dr. Lamis provided the Biblico-theological Reflection on the hemorrhaging women and this was reflected in the output presented by the women through a letter to the churches, which will be published in CCA News.
- The Kampuchean Christian Council (KCC) gathered those who received the training on HIV Awareness in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai in 2006 for sharing of experiences in the church of the President of KCC, Rev. Oum Sovy on 14 November 2009. The Executive Committee of the KCC suggested three seminars for 2010.

The Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC) organized the interfaith consultation. Various faith based groups shared their experience in working with people living with HIV, many of whom are organized into self help groups. This meeting gave birth to the Myanmar In-

terfaith Network on AIDS (MINA). Dr. Senturias and Ms. Pawadee met with Rev. Dr. U Arthur Ko Lay, senior pastor of Judson Church and Ms. Naw She Wah who is a Baptist and now working with the Myanmar Positive Group. They are invited to speak in Kuala Lumpur Pre assembly on HIV and AIDS.

The 2009 World AIDS Day Celebration

An important component to raising awareness on HIV and AIDS is through supporting World AIDS Day program of churches. In Chiang Mai, many activities were participated by The Church of Christ in Thailand AIDS Ministry (CCT CAM). CCA provided support to the big gathering in the McGilvary College of Divinity on 3 December 2009. On the same day, the Judson Church was the venue of the World AIDS Day celebration of the MCC HIV Prevention and Care Program.

Mission Trips to AIDS Programs and UN Agencies

The visit of the consultant on various HIV and AIDS program and UN Agencies in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Yangon, Myanmar and Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand resulted in better appreciation of the needs of the various areas and where collaboration and networking are possible.

Exposure Program and Training Workshop on Building HIV Competent Church in Yunnan, China Chiang Mai, Thailand; February 2010

The HIV Program allocated USD 6,500.00 for this program, which was held in Chiang Mai in February instead of March as it was the available time for the church leaders in Yunnan. The training was given by The CCT AIDS Ministry and organized by MEPP. The program was given in Thai with a translator from Thai to Chinese.

Pre-Assembly Forum of PLHIV + and Asian Theological Reflection Process Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 10-13 April 2010

For the first time in CCA's history, a Pre Assembly Forum of PLHIV+ was held prior to the General Assembly. To maximize the event, the Asian Theological Reflection Process was added to enable

pastors and theologians reflect on HIV from the perspective of the stories of PLHIV+. To maximize the limited resources, we requested the World Council of Churches' (WCC) Health and Healing Program, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) to sponsor their participants from Asia and to help organize skills building activities. The CCM provided two local organizers to assist in the organization of the forum: Rev. Pax Tan Chiow Lian and Ms. Asha Lim Singh.

We were able to get the participation of the Malaysian Care, The CCT AIDS Ministry (CAM), the MCC, the LWF, the Targeted Outreach Program in Yangon, the Judson Church in Yangon, the St. John's Cathedral HIV Education Center in Hong Kong, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), two pastors from Japan who are actively engaged in Migrant Workers and HIV to present the witness of PLHIV+ and their own organizations' response.

The United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) and the Malaysian AIDS Foundation and Dr. Simon Azariah of Pakistan to provide an overview of the AIDS situation. Metropolitan Dr. Geevarghese Mor Coorilos and Rev. Fr. Desmond Cox provided the Biblico-theological Reflection and Pastoral

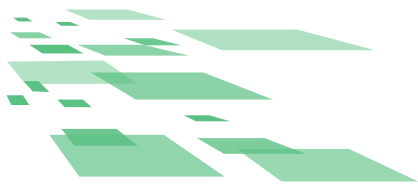
Perspectives on the Challenges of AIDS. The Rev. Dr. Wati Longchar led in the Asian Theological Reflection Process. Dr. Manoj Kurian introduced the concept of Healing of Memories. Dr. Alphinus Kambodji shared his skills in Program Management. There was an exposure program to AIDS activities in Kuala Lumpur arranged by Malaysian Care.

The HIV Forum participants and the Pre-Assembly Women's participants were together in the plenary on Women as Prophets, Healers and Reconcilers. The plenary session started with the Biblico Theological Reflection of Metropolitan Dr. Geevarghese Mor Coorilos on Human Sexuality and HIV. Then two women shared their work on reproductive health and domestic abuse. Participants were also introduced to Positive Masculinity.

The evaluation revealed the great impact of the sharing of PLHIV+ and wished there were more time to interact with them. There was more of individual and program sharing than time for questions in all the activities due to overextended presentations. Despite time constraints, the program as a whole had a great impact on the participants. They left home inspired to do their work.



The women of Timor Leste urge the churches in Asia to support people living with HIV And AIDS towards regaining their humanity and confidence.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

MEKONG ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (MEPP)

Ms. Janejinda Pawadee, Program Coordinator

Rev. Huh Chun Jung, Consultant

Training on Migrant Workers Issues Chiang Rai, Thailand; 10-11 August 2009

MEPP co-organized a training with the Social Development and Service Unit of the Church of Christ in Thailand (SDSU-CCT) and with a local church along the Thai-Burma border on Thai laws and regulations on migrant labor on August 10-11, 2009. The training aimed to educate church and community members who hold different legal status in Thailand and to encourage churches to involve in migrant issues, and especially to help them overcome prejudice and discrimination against migrant workers and people with non-legal status.

Forty-two ethnic minorities and migrant workers from Burma who are working and living in border communities attended the training. Most participants were undocumented and hold no legal status which is risky to arrests and deportation by the Thai police. One's legal status and citizenship issues are seriously discussed in Thailand. The government has announced that deportation will be made immediately if an undocumented person is arrested. Such situation is threatening for someone who is illegal in Thailand. Hence the church has to provide a place and facilitate trainings for immigrants to gain better understanding of Thai laws and regulations.

Participants shared their struggles while living in Thailand as migrant workers and/or as undocumented persons. Hearing their pains and struggles will help the church understand their problems and struggles.

A lawyer and staff from MAP (Migrant Assistance Program) Foundation introduced participants to MAP, which was established in 1996 to provide assistance to migrant workers. Their areas of work included labor, women and child rights, and the right to access health services. The lawyer further explained about Thai laws related to migrant workers such as the Labor Protection Act, Work of Alien (migrant) Act, Citizenship Act, Compensation Fund Act and Cabinet's Resolution on Migrant Workers from Lao, Cambodia and Burma.

The participants shared their difficulties related to the right to live and work in Thailand, unfair wages, their children's education (not allowed to study in Thai schools), bribery by village headmen and government officers, and lack of clear information and good advice from government officers.

Consultation on Migrant workers Chiang Mai, Thailand; 7 October 2009

MEPP together with SDSU-CCT organized a one-day Consultation on migrant workers held at First Church of Chiang Mai to educate churches in Chiang Mai to understand the situation of migrant workers and issues confronting them. In 2008 and 2009 MEPP and SDSU-CCT organized two consultations in the Thai border towns Maesod and Maesai. This time MEPP wanted to help city churches become aware of the situation of migrant workers and understand better their situation and related issues. Pastors and leaders from different city churches in Chiang Mai came together to hear the voices of migrant workers and to understand the church's ministry with so-called "illegal" workers.

Chiang Mai is a place where many migrant workers from Burma are hired to work in different sectors. Many workers worship in churches in the city of Chiang Mai.

The voices of migrant workers challenged participants to review their church ministries. Many pastors and church leaders reflected that they have learnt more about the situation and difficulties of workers including prejudice and discrimination against them. But the churches need more education, accurate information and skills to work on migrant workers and related issues. City churches can also provide services to migrant workers according to their ministries and resources.

MEPP together with the SDSU-CCT will conduct follow up activities and work closely with churches in Chiang Mai City in 2010.

Personnel Exchange Program for Women Chiang Mai, Thailand; 24 – 28 August 2009

MEPP was asked by the Mother's Union of the Methodist Church in Burma to organize the Personnel Exchange Program for Women (Burma) on Aug 24-28, 2009, in collaboration with the Micro Credit Foundation, a Christian NGO in Chiang Mai.

Participants were women leaders who came from different divisions in Burma. Most of them traveled abroad for the first time and expressed that they have learnt a real experience of 'Freedom of movement' which never happened before in Burma. They were able to visit and learn about micro credit programs which they can apply in their country. MEPP also shared with them about the situation and difficulties of migrant workers from Burma in Thailand.

Mission Trips to Mekong Churches (with HIV and AIDS Consultant) Cambodia and Burma; 13 – 21 November 2009

The MEPP Coordinator together with the CCA Consultant on HIV and AIDS, Dr. Erlinda Senturias, visited Cambodia and Burma/Myanmar on November 13-21, 2009. The objectives of the visits were:

- To disseminate and discuss with church partners and other agencies the Christian Conference of Asia's HIV and AIDS Policy approved by the CCA General Committee in Bangkok on October 1, 2009;
- To get an update on the situation of HIV and the responses of the church and other organizations in Mekong region;
- To meet with key affected populations and to learn from their programs;
- To prepare for the Pre Assembly Forum on HIV and AIDS in Kuala Lumpur on April 11-13, 2010.
- To further develop the project on "Building HIV-Competent Churches and Faith-Based Organization"

In Cambodia, we met with different groups organized by the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC) and with former participants of MEPP's HIV and AIDS training in Thailand in 2006. They shared how they are engaged in HIV and AIDS work. We also met with the Executive Committee of KCC to share our concerns with them. KCC is interested to initiate HIV and AIDS trainings in Cambodia to educate their member churches. A plan for trainings were discussed seriously and it is hoped that KCC will be able to organize a training in 2010.

In Burma we met with different groups including UNFPA, WHO, INGOs, FBOs and PLWHA groups.

The meetings were organized by the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC)'s HIV and AIDS Program which is very active in Burma. We also attended a one-day interfaith seminar and learned how different faiths work on HIV and AIDS issues. We were impressed with the collaborative work done by interfaith networks and witnessed the birth of MINA or the Myanmar Interfaith Network on HIV and AIDS during our visit.

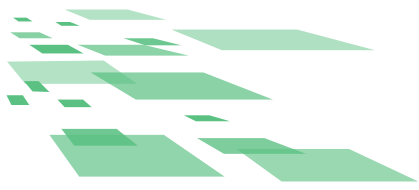
Visit to Vietnam (with FMU) Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; 24 – 27 November 2009

The MEPP Coordinator together with an Executive Secretary of CCA's Faith, Mission and Unity (CCA-FMU), Dr. Hope Antone, visited Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on November 24-27, 2009. The purpose of the visit was to learn on the situation of churches in Vietnam and to establish contacts for future collaborative work on theological issues.

The itinerary was organized by Pastor Phuc Trai, a former student at McGilvary College of Divinity of Payap University in Chiang Mai. We learned on the Vietnamese church situation through a group of McGilvary Alumni who shared about their ministries to us. Some of them are helping or working with their own home churches, a common occurrence in Vietnam since religious freedom is limited. We also had a chance to meet with a leader of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam (ECVN), who informed us about an increasing number of Christians meeting informally. ECVN also tried to unite Christian and churches in North and South to bring unity to the witness of God's presence in Vietnam.



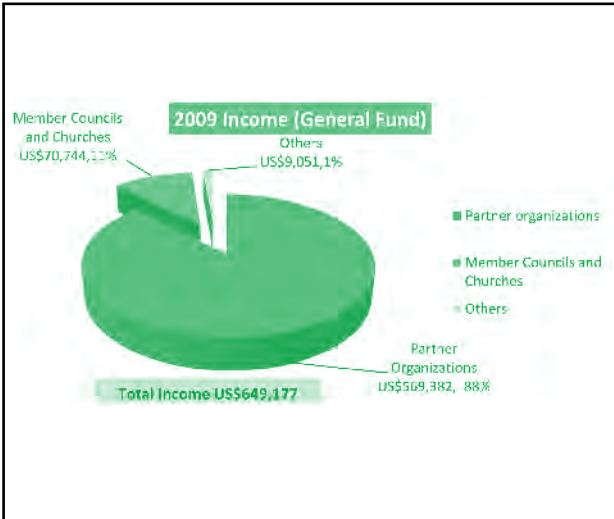
A Burmese girl selling her ware in Mae Sot market at the Thai-Myanmar border.



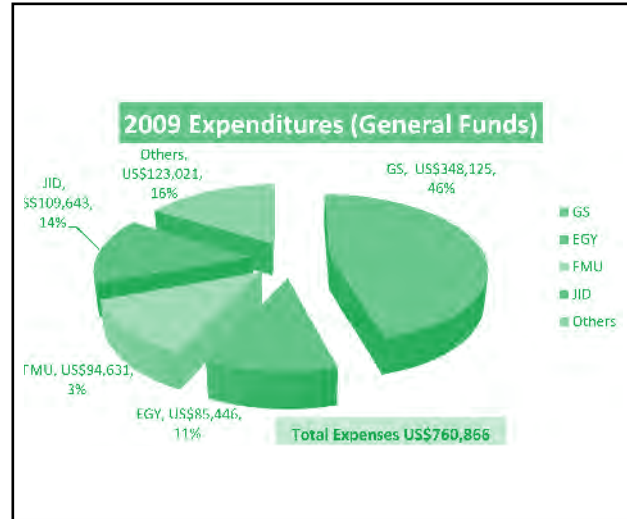
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY



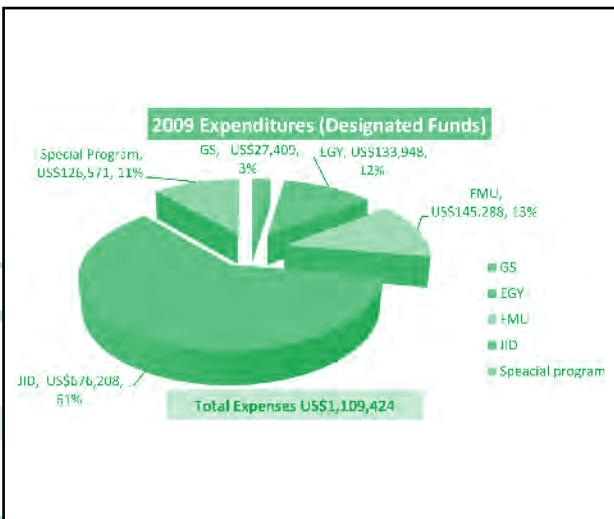
2009 General Fund Income



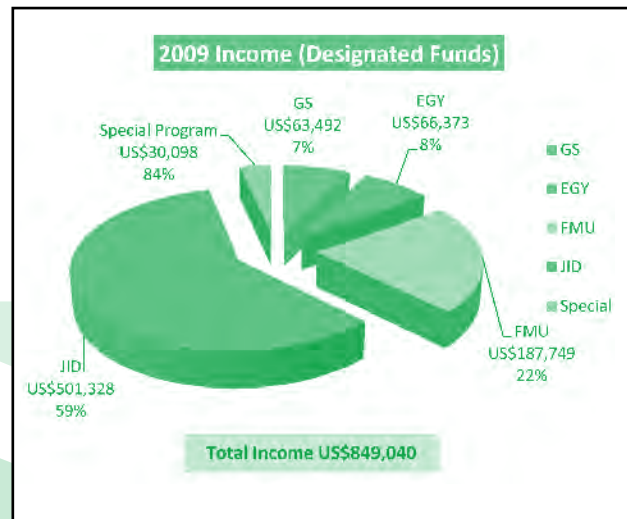
2009 General Fund Expenditure

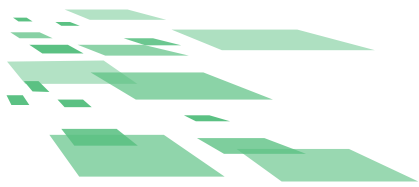


2009 Designated Fund Income



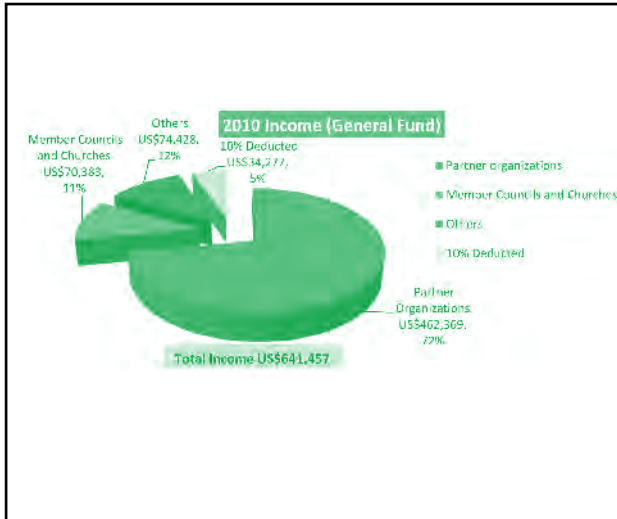
2009 Designated Fund Expenditure



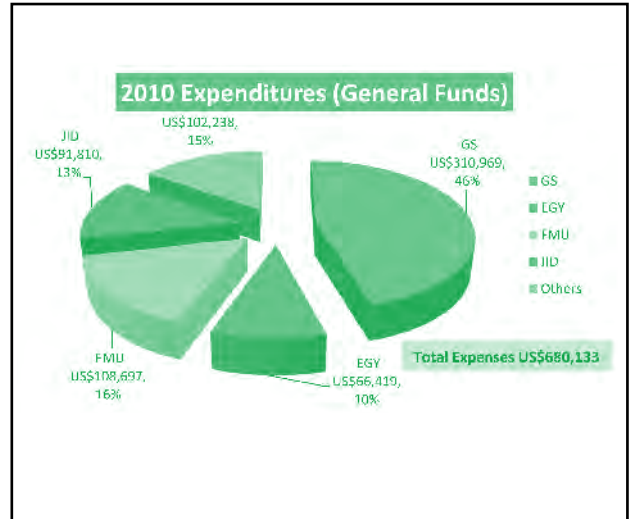


INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

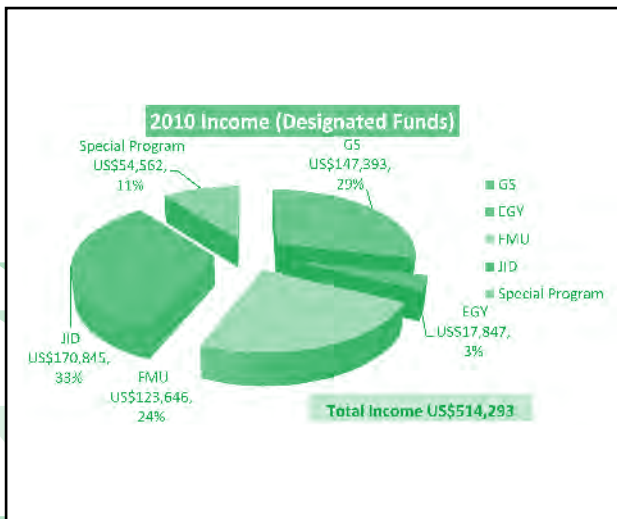
2010 General Fund Income



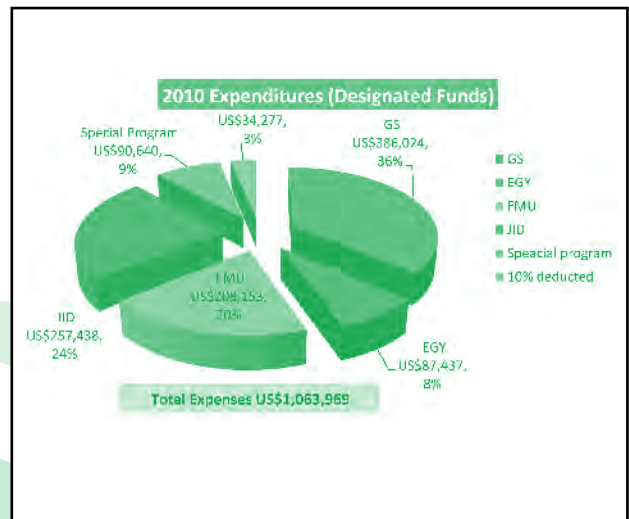
2010 General Fund Expenditures



2010 Designated Fund Income



2010 Designated Fund Expenditures



THE CCA EMERGENCY FUND

In contexts where churches, councils and communities at-large in Asia become victims due to recurring earthquakes, volcanic eruption, floods, tsunami, etc., CCA deems it important to build an Emergency Fund, keep it on reserve and use it at the right time.

As mandated by the 13th CCA Assembly in April 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, the CCA Emergency Fund was created to enable CCA to:

- Organize immediate visits to see firsthand the damages caused and find out how to assist churches and councils in responding to the emergency situation. The initial visit provides CCA with information to inform the CCA family about the situation so that they can be in solidarity with the affected people and the churches in the countries where the tragedy has taken place.
- Facilitate visits of accompaniment, at times by a small team consisting of members from the CCA family. The visits aim to assist churches to work out their own relief and rehabilitation work in collaboration with Action by Churches Together (ACT) International or other major donors.

CCA's role is purely accompaniment where it equips and empowers the local churches to be in mission and to respond effectively to the need of the times. The implementors are the local churches and the national councils.

**We thus appeal to you to contribute to the CCA Emergency Fund,
by sending your contributions to:**

Account name: **Christian Conference of Asia**

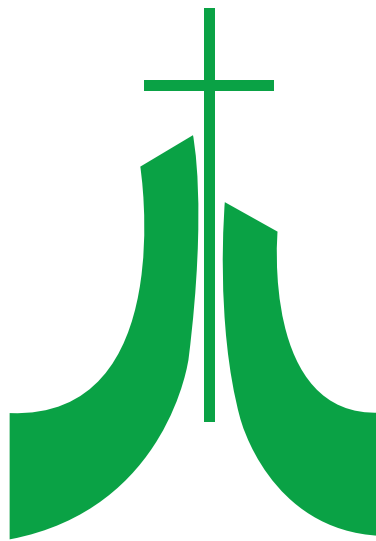
Bank: **Hang Seng Bank**

Branch: **Hankow Road (4 Hankow Road Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR, China)**

Account No.: **295 - 4 - 709594**

Account Type: **Multi-Currencies Account**

Swift Code: **HASEHKHH**



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