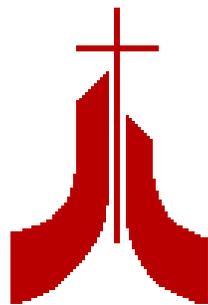


PROGRAM REPORT

January to June 2011



CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA

Chiang Mai, Thailand

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FOREWORD

The year began with a CCA staff meeting on January 14-15, 2011, to finalize the program plans for 2011. Each staff shared his or her program for 2011 and received comments and suggestions from the rest. This is a mechanism to help each other in enriching the CCA programs, and to coordinate staff work. The meeting had been an opportunity to strengthen the cooperative team spirit among the staff.

Following that, each staff entered into the process of implementing his or her program. In addition, all staff actively engaged in the preparation of the three important and interrelated CCA meetings, namely: Round Table meeting with ecumenical partners, Executive Committee and General Committee (GC) meetings, which were held consecutively in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on March 1-10, 2011. These meetings were crucial for the ministry of the CCA in the coming years, particularly leading towards the next CCA Assembly in 2015.

This year's GC meeting is the first to be attended by most of its members since the last CCA Assembly held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2010. Most of the GC members are new, thus the need to familiarize themselves with CCA life and its way of enhancing its ministry. At the same time, they need to do their tasks to discuss and adopt the CCA program direction for 2011-2015 in the light of the Assembly mandates, including the CCA Vision and Mission. Moreover, the GC was challenged by the issue of financial resources to support the work of CCA. The GC took seriously the comments and suggestions from the ecumenical partners.

In the meantime, we could not ignore the changing geo-political realities in Asia as well as the calamities that hit many parts of Asia one after another within a brief period of time. These situations challenged Asian churches to work together more closely and to continuously pray for each other.

This document reports the CCA programs implemented from January to June, 2011. We welcome your feedback and appreciate any suggestion to improve the ministry of CCA. May the wisdom and the light of God continuously show us the way forward to strengthen the witness of Asian churches and to work with all, so that

“Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.” (Psalm 85:10-11)

Henriette Hutabarat Lebang
General Secretary

GENERAL SECRETARIAT (GS)

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

A. General Administration

A.1. CCA General Committee (GC) Meeting March 7-9, 2011, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The GC spent time understanding the mandate of the 2010 CCA Assembly, and adopted the Vision and Mission statement and Goals for 2011-2015 based on the mandate of the Assembly, including the CCA Program Thrusts for 2011-2015.

It was emphasized that CCA member churches and councils shall be actively involved in the implementation of the mandates of CCA by integrating them in their own programs, especially on issues that are relevant to the context of their ministries. This strategy is expected to strengthen the sense of ownership of CCA members, and facilitate the effective development, implementation and better integration of CCA programs.

In her presentation, the General Secretary highlighted the fact that CCA is in a transition period with a huge challenge to work within its shrinking and limited resources without sacrificing the quality of CCA's work and losing its sense of direction. CCA needs to develop effective policies and strategies that enhance our efforts to accompany the churches in responding to Asian struggles. We need to be flexible and realistic about what we can do and cannot do. We must see this period as an opportunity to build and strengthen our network and collaborative efforts with those who share our priorities. Further, she underlined the need to take this as a challenge to have more faith in God and in ourselves that together we come out of this situation wiser, humbled and found faithful to our calling to be prophets, healers and reconcilers.

In view of this situation, the GC decided that each program cluster will have only one executive secretary by January 2012 and a few consultants as needed and when financially viable.

The GC also adopted the proposed budget for 2011, and discussed the recommendations of the CCA Review Process undertaken in 2008 to 2010, and developed a plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations. Some of the recommendations from the CCA Review have constitutional implications, consequently needing constitutional and structural review.

The GC thus created the Constitutional and Structural Review Committee composed of the following: Rev. Terence Corkin (Australia), Rev. Prince Devanandan (Aotearoa New Zealand), Ms Sriyangani Fernando (Sri Lanka), Dr. K. B. Rokaya (Convenor), and the Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang (Coordinator).

The GC issued a pastoral letter to the churches in Aotearoa New Zealand dated 24 February 2011, expressing the solidarity of Asian churches related to the earthquake that hit Christchurch. In responding to the request of a member from Pakistan, a letter was sent to the President of Pakistan on 04 April 2011. Similarly, on the request of the General Secretary of the NCC Korea, CCA sent a letter to the President of South Korea on 08 March 2011.

A.2. CCA Round Table Meeting with Ecumenical Partners

March 4-5, 2011, Chiang Mai, Thailand

CCA partners who participated are from the Church of Scotland, Bread for the World, Evangelisches Entwicklungsdienst c.V. (EED), ICCO-Kerk in Actie, United Church of Canada, Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia (FTE), National Council of Churches in Australia - Act for Peace, Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW), Church of Sweden, Global Ministries, and the Christian Church (DOC)-United Church of Christ.

The CCA Officers, Executive Committee members and staff were also part of the meeting.

In the discussion on the Report on the CCA Review, the partners encouraged the CCA governing body to make its plan of action in response to the proposals that came out in the report. Under the guidance of the GC the staff has developed a plan of action and submitted it to the CCA ecumenical partners as well as to the CCA member churches and councils for their perusal.

B. Relationships

B. 1. Visits to CCA Members

As has been the practice and now more intentionally a part of strengthening internal relationships and cultivating a stronger sense of ownership, the staff visited some CCA members between January to June, 2011. The visits were made to the head office or a place of a respective member church or council. This approach provides an opportunity for the CCA leadership to know better the life and needs of a member, meet its wider leadership and give updates on the programs and challenges of CCA as a fellowship of Asian churches. This is also a chance to discuss means of cooperating with members in program implementation, receive feedback and suggestions, and negotiate the support of members to the ministry of CCA including financial support.

We are grateful that most of the churches visited have expressed their support to CCA and renewed their commitment particularly in paying regularly their annual contributions to CCA, including possibilities of increasing their support.

On January 17, 2011, the General Secretary and Dr. Hope Antone, Joint Executive Secretary for FMU visited the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) and met the new leadership of the CCT. This visit was done in relation to the CCA-FABC planning meeting in Bangkok.

In February 2011, the General Secretary was invited to attend the Annual meeting of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) held in Halmahera on February 1-5,

2011. In the PGI General Assembly in 2009, Dr. Hutabarat Lebang was elected as its Chair for 2009 - 2014. In that occasion she resigned from the position due to her new responsibility as General Secretary of CCA. She brought greetings on behalf of CCA, and with the coordination of the Rev. Gomar Gultom, General Secretary of PGI and a member of CCA General Committee, a meeting was arranged with the representatives of CCA and WCC member churches who were present in the gathering. This was another opportunity to introduce the vision, mission and programs of CCA for 2011-2015, and to discuss the ways of collaboration and possible support of member churches to the ecumenical fellowship at the regional and global levels. CCA has 31 member churches in Indonesia plus PGI. All of the member churches are members of PGI.

Dr. Hutabarat Lebang also visited three member churches in Indonesia, namely: the Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera (GMIH), Fellowship of the Protestant Church in Minahasa (KGPM), and the Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa (GMIM) on February 7-8, 2011. The domestic travel expenses of GS during this visit were covered by PGI and the hospitalities were provided by respective member churches. She was also invited by the Faculty of Theology of the Christian University in Tomohon to give a lecture on ecumenical concerns in contemporary Asian situation.

In April 2011, the General Secretary was invited by the Women Fellowship of the Simalungun Christian Protestant Church (GKPS) to be the keynote speaker for their synodical gathering. Around 500 women attended this special event which was held in Jakarta on April 8-10, 2011, the first one in the history of this church. The General Secretary used this opportunity together with Rev. Retno Ngapon, a member of CCA Presidium from Indonesia, to meet the leadership of PGI on April 8 evening to discuss possible plans for CCA fund-raising in Indonesia. We are grateful for the positive response of PGI and their commitment to support CCA on this matter. Following that, on April 11-12, 2011 Dr. Hutabarat Lebang with Rev. Retno Ngapon and Rev. Citra Timur Sari, a member of CCA Program Area Committee on Justice, International Affairs and Development and Service, JID, visited two CCA member churches in Jakarta, namely: the Indonesia Christian Church (GKI) and Protestant Church in West Indonesia (GPIB).

Involving the members of various CCA committees in the activities of CCA including the visits to member churches is another way to strengthen the sense of ownership of the member churches and councils and their representatives who are in the leadership of CCA. The Women Fellowship covered the international travel expenses of GS, and the hospitality was offered by the PGI and respective churches.

The General Secretary also attended the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) held in Taipei on April 26-29, 2011, and met with its leadership. She joined an exposure program for the ecumenical guests which helped her to understand better the ministry of PCT.

From Taipei, Dr Hutabarat Lebang went to Hong Kong together with Mr. Augustine Karmatakar, the Honorary Treasurer of CCA from Bangladesh, and with Ms. Rosanna So, CCA finance staff based in Hong Kong, met the CCA Auditor in Hong Kong to discuss the CCA financial operations and management. This was also an opportunity to

visit and meet the leadership of the member churches in Hong Kong, including: The Salvation Army, Hong Kong and Macau Command, Anglican Church in Hong Kong (Sheng Kung Hui), and the Methodist Church, Hong Kong. We were also able to meet with Rt. Rev. Thomas So, former Treasurer of CCA, Rev. Po, Kam Cheong, General Secretary of Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC) who is also a member of CCA Executive Committee. A visit to the office of Amity Foundation in Hong Kong was helpful to better understand the current ministries of Amity Foundation among the churches in China.

After attending the Meeting of World Association of Christian Communication (WACC) Asia Region in Yogyakarta, Dr. Liza Lamis, CCA Consultant for Communications was able to visit three CCA member churches in Central Java between May 23-24, 2011, namely: Javanese Christian Churches (GKJ)United Muria Christian Churches of Indonesia (GKMI), and Synod of Gereja Isa Almasih (GIA).

Dr. Hope Antone met with the leadership of the Christian Protestant Church in Nias (BNKP) Indonesia when she was invited to give a lecture in the seminary of this church in May 2011, in conjunction with the CCA program, the Basic Ecumenical Course held in Jogjakarta in May 2011.

B.2. The first Preparatory Meeting for the Second Encounter of Islamic and Christian Religious Leaders of Asia
January 16, 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

The meeting, co-organized by CCA and FABC where two Muslim friends from Bangladesh and the Philippines participated, proposed the theme for the Second Encounter to be held in 2012, "A Common Word Between Us and You - a Tripartite Asian Response: Love of God and Love of Neighbor," based on "A Common Word Between Us and You" signed by 138 Muslim scholars in 2007. This Second Encounter follows what was then called the First Asian Bishops-Ulama Conference held in August 2003 in Manila. The name change is a result of the affirmation that the gathering has involved not only bishops and Ulamas but also scholars, leaders and lay people from Christian and Islamic communities.

B.3. Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World, Recommendation for a Code of Conduct
January 26-28, 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

The CCA General Secretary was invited to attend and bring greetings to the joint program of the WCC and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) of the Roman Catholic Church held in Bangkok on January 26-28, 2011. There were representatives from the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) on the invitation of WCC. This was the third consultation with the aim to produce a document to encourage churches, church councils, and mission agencies to reflect on their current mission practices and to use the recommendations in the document to prepare, where appropriate, their own code of conduct for witness and mission to those of different religions and those who do not profess any particular religion. The document has been finalized with the title: "Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World - Recommendations for Conduct." This document can be used as an important

reference for further discussion in Asian context especially through the Asian mission conferences planned to be held in 2012.

B.4. Meeting of REOs General Secretaries and Central Committee of WCC
February 14-19, 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

The General Secretary attended the meeting of the General Secretaries of the Regional Ecumenical Organizations (REOs) held in Geneva on February 14-15, 2011. Each general secretary shared on the situation and the ecumenical programs and challenges of their respective regions. The meeting also discussed the possibilities of holding a global meeting of the General Secretaries of the National Council of Churches in 2012. Following this meeting, the General Secretaries of REOs as Board Members of the Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT) held its meeting on February 15, 2011.

Further, the CCA General Secretary attended the meeting of the Central Committee of the WCC for a few days on February 16-18, 2011.

B.5. Asian Christian Communicators Assembly and Forum
May 15-21, 2011, Jogjakarta, Indonesia

Being a member of the World Association of Christian Communicators (WACC) – Asia Region, CCA was represented by Dr. Liza Lamis, CCA Communications Consultant, at its Pre-assembly Forum and Triennial Assembly attended by 51 WACC Asia members, global officers and observers. The forum featured various presentations and workshops on “Communicating Climate Justice”.

As an active member of WACC, CCA helps promote the celebration of Asia Communication Sunday by inviting CCA members to observe the event and use the WACC prepared resource materials for that purpose. This year Asia Communication Sunday falls on June 26. The announcement and resource booklet have been posted on the CCA website for general access.

B.6. Visit to the Refugee Camp in Maesot
May 4-5, 2011, Maesot, Thailand

The CCA General Secretary was invited to attend the seminar of teachers of theological schools in the refugee camps along the border of Myanmar and Thailand.

Sixty teachers from ten seminaries and Bible Schools located in refugee camps attended a three-day seminar supported by the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) Seosomoon Congregation, organized by Rev. Huh Chun Jung, a PCK pastor involved in the Mekong Ecumenical Program in the past four years. It is heartening to note that in the midst of their struggles and being away from their homes as refugees for many years, they were able to build and maintain a theological education which has stimulated them to develop their theologies of struggle. Most of the participants are members of the Karen community and belong to the Myanmar Baptist Churches.

C. Communications and Library

The CCA News which used to be a quarterly publication will now be issued thrice a year. Contributions are still highly encouraged from members and friends.

We are finding ways to upgrade the CCA website to make it more interactive, more user-friendly and less susceptible to hacking. The CCA website is an asset in that it is a minefield of important CCA historical documents made available electronically. Additionally, it carries regularly the monthly e-Letter and pastoral letters issued from time to time.

As the CCA Library is now online it is now more accessible and useful for members and friends. Connecting is quite easy by just visiting the CCA website:
www.cca.org.hk

D. Finance Management

Steps were undertaken to share the present financial concerns of CCA to each member church and council, and to collect and increase members' contributions. Visits to members by the CCA staff and constant follow up are important in keeping CCA stakeholders aware of their obligation to support CCA and its ministry. Cost cutting measures were also implemented in the CCA Office in Chiang Mai. We at the general secretariat make it a point to be reasonable in our expenses as we should be responsible stewards of our shrinking resources.

E. The CCA Review

In response to the CCA Review recommendations preparations for the Constitutional and Structural Review (CSRC) Committee are underway. The Committee is scheduled to meet towards the end of this year. A strategic plan to increase members' sense of ownership and participation in the CCA ministry is also now on the drawing board.

F. Special Programs

F.1. CCA Emergency Fund

A letter of appeal was sent to CCA members to express solidarity to the victims of the tsunami and earthquake in Japan in March 2011. Some member churches and councils responded positively by sending their donations through the CCA Emergency Fund which was later forwarded to NCC Japan. Some sent their support directly to the churches in Japan.

As a concrete expression of solidarity to countries afflicted by calamities, we need to beef up this emergency fund so that CCA can respond immediately to emergency needs, aside from offering prayers. A special appeal was sent to CCA members to support the Korean churches and the wider ecumenical families to address the famine situation in North Korea. Any financial support can be coursed through the CCA Emergency Fund, and shall then be forwarded to the NCC Korea.

F.2. HIV and AIDS

Building HIV Competent Churches and Communities

The HIV and AIDS program received a designated fund from the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V and the World Council of Churches' Health and Healing Program for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013 to build HIV Competent Churches and Communities. Two staff members were appointed: A Project Consultant to lay the foundation for the program for one year and a Program Assistant who will also relate with the finance office for three years.

The agreed objectives with the project partners and their indicators are:

Project Objective 1

The community and capacity of faith based organizations to promote fullness of life for people living with HIV and AIDS and other vulnerable groups has been strengthened through ending stigma and discrimination in religious teachings and the practice of love, respect and holistic support.

Indicator 1: 7 Churches have approved HIV and AIDS Policy Statements.

Indicator 2: 7 Memorandum of Agreement of letter of support from network partners on programs for the community, people living with HIV and AIDS and other vulnerable beneficiary-partners have been issued.

Indicator 3: 200 communities and faith-based organizations and individuals have advocated and performed reasonable services for people living with HIV.

Project Objective 2

A supportive ecumenical and interfaith environment in the country and/or region has been created through collaboration, networking and alliance building to respond to the needs of communities, people living with HIV and AIDS and other vulnerable beneficiary partners.

Indicator 1: 2 documents show a commitment to collaboration, alliance and networking on the issues surrounding people living with HIV/AIDS

Indicator 2: 1 country interfaith network on AIDS has been newly established.

Project Objective 3

Capacity building of leading religious and lay people has occurred for those who will continue the work of HIV and AIDS and care for the care givers in their Churches and Communities.

Indicator 1: A dynamic core of 50 knowledgeable and skilful religious leaders and lay people are involved in HIV and AIDS.

Indicator 2: 7 program plans regarding HIV and AIDS have been implemented by faith-based organizations, churches and religious leaders.

Indicator 3: The results of the Asian Theological Reflection process have been published.

Methodology

For the period under review (January –June 2011), the methodology was to build the capacity of 50 religious and lay leaders on Building HIV Competent Churches and Faith Communities through the Training of Trainers. Participants from CCA Member Churches and Councils will echo the training of trainers through holding seminar on HIV and AIDS in seven countries in Asia for the rest of 2011. One echo seminar immediately was held in Lashio, Myanmar after the training of trainers.

Fifty-four religious leaders and lay people participated in the capacity building and training of trainers. They represented the following organizations: for the 7 countries that are participating in the seminar on building HIV Competent Churches: National Council of Churches – Bangladesh, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, Myanmar Council of Churches, Myanmar Catholic HIV and AIDS Network, Myanmar Baptist Convention, Church of the Province of Myanmar, Wesley Hospital, Karuna Myanmar Social Services, Mara Evangelical Church, Methodist Church (Upper Yangon)The Church of Christ in Thailand, Kampuchean Christian Council, Laos Evangelical Church, Communion of Churches in Indonesia AIDS Committee and the Women’s Program of the Church in Tanah Papua, Indonesia. The other participants were from Asian Interfaith Network on AIDS and the country interfaith organizations: Interfaith Network on HIV and AIDS in Thailand (INHAT), Indian Interfaith Coalition on AIDS (IICA), Indonesian Interfaith Network on AIDS (INTERNA), and the Myanmar Interfaith Network on AIDS (MINA). Also invited was the Interfaith Youth Coalition on AIDS, the Young Women’s Christian Association and Wesley Clinic in Kalay, Sagaing Division. The Training of Trainers was held in the Myanmar Ecumenical Sharing Center in Yangon, Myanmar on June 18-24, 2011. Prior to this event, the Project Consultant visited Yangon to meet with the local hosts on March 26-30, 2011.

Achievements

- 1) Fifty (50) participants were trained in building HIV Competent Churches and Faith Communities. Organizations involved in the activity were CCA member churches and Council of Churches in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh and invited church organization in Vietnam and interfaith organizations.
- 2) The following organizations provided support towards the Training of Trainers: Food was provided by the Myanmar Council of Churches, Judson Church, Burnett Institute on behalf of the Myanmar Interfaith Network on AIDS, and the Myanmar Catholic HIV and AIDS Network. Travel was sponsored by the International Network of Religious Leaders Living with and Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS and the Catholic Commission on Health. Exposure programs were facilitated by the Ratana Metta Organization, Phoenix Organization and the Targeted Outreach Program servicing the Female Sex Workers and Men who have Sex with Men. The United Nations Joint Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) Country Program gave greetings to the participants and the Vice Chair of the Country Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Fund on AIDS, TB and Malaria, Prof. Dr. Samuel Kyaw Hla. Experts on HIV Competent Churches – Dr. Susan Purcell Gilpin and Rev. Dr. Wati Longchar were the main trainers. Ms. Darlene Caramanzana led the Bible Study for the CCA Member Churches and Councils who will give the seminar

- on Building HIV Competent Churches. The Positive People shared their experiences. The Seven Network composed of Myanmar Positive Group, Myanmar Positive Network Initiative, Sex Workers Network in Myanmar Network, Myanmar MSM Network, National NGO Network on AIDS, Myanmar Council of Churches and Myanmar Interfaith Network on AIDS reported on their activities and challenges for future work.
- 3) The first Seminar on Building HIV Competent Churches was held in Lashio, Myanmar on June 26-29, 2011 with three participants of the Training of Trainers facilitating the workshop: Rev. Mang Khan Sum, Coordinator of the Churches Action to Stop AIDS, Ms. Julia Aye Thida, Program Assistant, Myanmar Catholic HIV and AIDS Network, and Ms. Khaing Mar Swe, of the Myanmar Positive Christian Network. Thirty participants from both Catholic and Protestant member churches of the Myanmar Council of Churches and the Lashio Council of Churches learned about HIV Competent Churches. Ms. Thida translated the Benchmark Assessment Tool on HIV Competent Churches to ensure that at least 30 churches are surveyed for their HIV competencies. The exposure program was in the PLHA Drop-In Center of the Lashio Council of Churches and Catholic Shelter.
 - 4) The interfaith participants held a forum on “Strengthening Religious Response and Advocacy on HIV and AIDS” on June 22. AINA also met to discuss the preparation for the interfaith conference. Speakers on the theme “Diverse Voices, United Action” were decided.
 - 5) The Theology and AIDS Workshop provided directions for the Asian Theological and Cultural and Reflection Process seminars.

Learning and Recommendations

- 1) The Concept and Practice of HIV Competent Churches and the Benchmarks Assessment Tools for HIV Competent Churches were well presented by Dr. Susan Purcell Gilpin.
- 2) Participants saw the relevance of the theme “Building HIV Competent Churches” and were inspired to pursue the training of churches and faith communities.
- 3) The National Council of Churches in Bangladesh was convinced to organize an interfaith network on HIV and AIDS.
- 4) Excellent exposure programs and interchange with positive people will be a good model for holding seminar on building HIV Competent Churches.
- 5) The participative theological reflection was led by Rev. Dr. Wati Longchar. The idea of God was analyzed, unpacked and deconstructed from a mighty and strong idea of God to a compassionate, loving and a God who accompanies us in our suffering was explored as a way forward to eliminate stigma and discrimination.
- 6) Recommendation from the Theology and HIV Group:
It is proposed for 2012, that the Theological Perspective on HIV and AIDS be developed under the theme “Abundant Life for All”. The following activities are suggested:

Activities:

- Development and publication of theological materials (readable by common people) clarifying misconceptions and promote spirituality of solidarity and celebration of life;

- Capacity building of human resources at national, regional and international levels;
- Strengthen HIV and AIDS, human sexuality and gender issues in ministerial formation programs at all levels;
- Rereading the Bible from the eyes of marginalized groups – HIV and AIDS, Disabilities, Sexual minorities, etc.
- Contextual theology/Biblical reflections from and with the marginalized.

Objectives:

- Empowerment, especially of the weak, vulnerable, marginalized (victims of unjust power structures, cultures);
- Unpacking oppressive, institutionalized, systemic cultures and traditions for the promotion of life;
- Rediscovery of liberative traditions in all world religions;
- De-construct oppressive theology.

The program can be organized at three levels:

- a) National Level – including local capacity building, local literature development, media production (at least one or two activities)
- b) Regional Level – TOT programme, exposure exchange programme among the youth (at least one or two activities)
- c) Asia Wide – Theological Forum on HIV possibly at WCC Assembly in Busan in 2013, and facilitate participation in international conference to enhance capacity. Explore study grant for those student doing thesis on HIV, Disability and Human Sexuality.

In all the activities, the group suggests to:

- Ensure participation of all faith communities
- Ensure participation of all stockholders in all levels
- Focus on youth and women
- Conduct an exposure visit
- Do a documentation of activities
- Inter-cooperation in terms of human resource, materials, expertise, etc.
- Promote of theological research

After each activity, the program should be reviewed with the following components:

- 1) Stop – if harmful, identify which harms life and stop those harmful actions.
- 2) Continue – if good. Identify the liberative action and continue to protect life.
- 3) Do new – identify new action plan to protect life.

ECUMENICAL FORMATION, GENDER JUSTICE AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT (EGY)

Ms. Moumita Biswas, Joint Executive Secretary

**A. Consultative Workshop on Reviving Prophetic Ecumenism: Role of Youth and Women in Asia in the Journey of Healing and Reconciliation
9 -12 February 2011
Church of North India Synod, New Delhi, India**

Rationale

The 13th CCA General Assembly emphasized the need for Asian churches to involve in prophetic the ministry of healing and reconciliation. They youth and the women in Asia are integral part of Asia churches and make profound contributions in prophetic ministry and building communities of peace. However, most often the prophetic contributions and voices of both women and youth are undermined and suppressed in society and even sometimes by hierarchical Asian church structures. Youth and women in Asia are facing myriad challenges in this era of globalization and neo-colonization, war, terrorism and violence which has ripped apart Asian societies. In such a context it is very essential to revive prophetic ecumenism to promote and nurture youth and women in their efforts to transform society.

Objectives:

- To Strengthen and revive prophetic ministry and role of women and youth in Asian churches in promoting the ministry of healing and reconciliation.
- To map critical issues that challenges and adversely impact the youth and women in Asia.
- To strategize together with the Program Area Committee (PAC) Members of EGY and some youth and women leaders regarding promoting gender justice, overcoming violence against children, and men women partnership for building communities of justpeace.
- To evolve concrete action plans to promote youth and women (especially young women), ecumenical leadership development and capacity enhancement in Asia, and their involvement in decision-making processes in Church and society.

Outcomes:

- Thirty youth and women leaders including 9 PAC members participated in this meeting.
- Strengthened women and youth church leaders' ecumenical networking in promoting prophetic ministry and ministry of healing and reconciliation.
- Participatory decision making by youth and women church leaders and EGY PAC members regarding mapping challenges and hopes, planning and implementation of CCA EGY activities.
- Action plans and concrete strategies for ownership of EGY activities program and projects by member churches and councils of CCA.

- Increased awareness among participants regarding vision and mission of CCA as mandated by the 13th General Assembly.

**B. Ecumenical Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Network (EASY NET) Core Team Annual Meeting
5-7 April 2011
Hong Kong SAR**

Promoting EASY Net and strengthening Asian youth ecumenical movement is one of the crucial foci of EGY. The EASY Net is a voluntary regional network of youth and students seeking to provide a common platform of action for youth and students of Asia and the Pacific, and to promote ecumenical dialogue and cooperation at the grassroots level. EASY Net is composed of six regional organizations which include World Student Christian Federation Asia Pacific Region (WSCF-AP), Christian Conference of Asia, International Movement of Catholic Students Asia-Pacific, International Young Christian Students Asia Secretariat, Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs and the World Young Women's Christian Association. Annually the EASY Net Core Committee meets to plan joint collaborations and strategize for strengthening networking among EASY Net organizations. The Executive Secretary of EGY is the CCA representative to the Core Committee. Ms Moumita Biswas attended this Core Team meeting.

Objectives of the Core Team Meeting:

- To strengthen relationships between the various EASY Net organizations.
- To make decisions regarding the post of EASY Net Coordinator's post
- To plan for joint activity and creative workshop for youth
- To plan for 'Asian Students Youth Gathering' in 2012 where more 100 youth will attend and EASY Net Week and 10th Anniversary celebration

Outcomes:

- Representatives from 6 organization attended this meetings
- It was decided not to renew the contract of EASY Net Coordinator and to advertise for a part-time coordinator
- It was decided that EASY Net in collaboration with CCA and Hong Kong Christian Council will organize an Ecumenical Creative Workshop of Youth and Students in Asia and the Pacific based on theme, 'Justice and Peace Now!' in July 2011.
- It was decided that during the July program there will be a planning meeting regarding the Asian students Youth Gathering and EASY Net 10th anniversary celebrations.
- Ms Sunita Suna from WSCF-AP and Women's Program Coordinator was chosen as the Moderator of EASY Net for 2011
- Decision was taken that Ms Moumita Biswas Executive Secretary of EGY who is now also responsible for youth work in CCA will be representing CCA in various on-line EASY Net Core Team meetings in 2011.

**C. CCA - World Students Christian Federation - Asia Pacific Relations Meeting
8 April 2011
Hong Kong SAR**

CCA and WSCF- AP work very closely with each other in promoting the youth ecumenical movement in Asia. In fact, WSCF-AP and CCA have a historical relationship in working together. Moumita Biswas, Executive Secretary of EGY visited the WSCF-AP office to meet Ms Necta Rocas Montes and Ms Sunita Sunita to strategize how relationships can be enhanced between these two organizations.

Objectives:

- To strengthen ecumenical relationships between CCA and WSCF-AP to promote Youth Ecumenical Movement in Asia.
- To plan about joint program collaborations.
- To discuss the possibility and pros and cons of having a CCA – WSCF-AP joint Relations Committee

Outcomes:

- Various strategies were discussed to promote the work relationship between the two organizations essential in Asia to promote youth ecumenical movement.
- The possibilities were discussed about the SELF (Students Ecumenical Leadership Formation) program which has been historically organized jointly by CCA and WSCF-AP.
- It was decided that Ms Moumita Biswas will discuss with the Dr Henriette Hutabarat Lebang about the possibilities of reviving the CCA - WSCF-AP joint Relations Committee.

D. Asian Network of Ecumenical Women (ANEW)

ANEW is an on going networking project of CCA - EGY. The main aim of this project is to strengthen the women's ecumenical movement in Asia, and also enhance relationships with other global ecumenical organizations. CCA maintains very close relationship with the International Committee of Fellowship of Least Coin Movement and the Asian Church Women's Conference.

D.1. Promoting the Fellowship of Least Coin Movement in Asia and Processing the Grant Applications of ICFLC in Asia

CCA is consistently engaged in promoting the Fellowship of the Least Coin, a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. This is part of ANEW project of CCA. Every year CCA in partnership with the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) is responsible for endorsing grant applications to the International Committee of Fellowship of Least Coin (ICFLC) to support women's initiatives for peace and justice in Asia.

This year CCA endorsed applications from the Mulvany Shelter Home serving aged widows and destitute women of the Church of North India (CNI) in Kolkata Diocese; the Conflict Transformation Training of the Women's Fellowship of Toraja Church in

Indonesia; and the EASY Net Initiative of Asian Students Youth Gathering in 2012 which will mobilize a big number of Asian youth to reflect on the theme, 'Justice and Peace Now!'

D.2. Preparations for Joint activities between ACWC and CCA

The World Council of Churches' 10th Assembly will be held in Busan, Korea. Special events like the Assembly can be a venue to again mobilize women around gender issues and to revive the women's movement. It is a time before the Assembly to move toward a life-giving community based on just peace. Women may bring their voices to the table and raise issues within church and society. In preparation for this women need to share their experiences with one another and form a collective agenda with a common vision. This is the reason why CCA in collaboration with ACWC have started planning and preparing for a consultative workshop especially for young women's leadership development and ecumenical formation based on the theme, '**Toward Life-giving Community based on just peace**'. Ms Moumita Biswas, Executive Secretary of EGY and Ms Lee Moon Sook, Executive Secretary of ACWC have started planning, preparing and fundraising together for this collaborative endeavor. A grant application has been submitted to ICFLC. Enhancing work relationships with ACWC is another focus of the ANEW project of CCA.

FAITH, MISSION AND UNITY (FMU)

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

A. Theological Workshop and CCA-FMU Program Area Committee Meeting 9-13 February 2011 Bangkok Christian Guest House, Bangkok

A theological workshop on emerging issues was held in conjunction with the Program Area Committee meeting of CCA-Faith, Mission and Unity cluster on 9-13 February. The objective of the workshop was for FMU-PAC members to critically reflect on emerging issues in their contexts and throughout Asia and the impact of the same on the mission, life and work of the churches in the region.

Metropolitan Dr. Geevarghese Mor Coorilos, moderator of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of WCC, was invited as resource person of the workshop. He shared on a very important document that was still in process by the WCC and the Pontifical Council, and which is similar to the Code of Conduct on Mission that CCA-FMU is trying to put together.

Participants shared their country realities, highlighting their struggles and challenges as minority Christian communities. They analyzed the impact of these country realities on theologizing and mission. They pointed out that while Asian societies have always been plural (diverse), the theologies and mission being promoted deny plurality and instead promote uniformity daubed as universality. The group recognized that the mission approaches reflect the colonial tendencies – e.g. conquest, fishing (giving out bait), and scare (e.g. “if you don’t believe you will burn in hell”). If plurality is celebrated as part of God’s creation, then the approach to mission would be solidarity (*kenosis* or self-emptying as in the way of Christ), which requires sincere identification with people in their own situations. The group affirmed that contextualization is not a going back to something like a pure Asian context, but critically dealing with contemporary issues with the wisdom and values of Asia. This includes having an interreligious perspective, literacy in the Asian religions, being more compassionate rather than condemning of people with HIV AIDS, and being more connected with nature. Committee members bemoaned the fact that Ecumenism is not taught as a required subject in many seminaries in Asia. Or if it is taught, it is treated simply as a historical movement but does not offer tools for today’s generation to be ecumenical in perspective and way of life. They welcomed the publication project of a resource book on teaching ecumenism by the CCA-FMU and WCC/ETE (World Council of Churches/Ecumenical Theological Education) and hopes that it will be a textbook not only for seminaries but also for the churches. The group considered putting together a Code of Conduct for Mission beginning with what is already there in their respective contexts. Not all the CCA-FMU PAC members could attend this meeting due to prior commitments. The Bhutanese youth could not come as she was just starting on her BTh program in India while the Cambodian youth had her university exams. The Iranian youth came and shared about the situation of Christians in Iran which was an eye-opener for the PAC members.

**B. Fourth Asia Conference of Theology Students (ACTS IV)
3-7 April 2011
Bangkok Christian Guest House**

A total of 31 participants attended the Fourth Asia Conference of Theology Students (ACTS IV) held in Bangkok, Thailand on 3-7 April. Eight were Catholics while others came from Protestant, Evangelical and Independent churches in 11 countries of Asia. This program achieved its main objective of gathering theology students to learn from each other's denominational traditions and affirm the wider meaning of unity in the household of God. As a sign of their commitment, they came up with action plans on how to continue praying and working together for unity in their respective contexts.

The program consisted of daily worship according to the various denominational traditions, biblico-theological reflections on the theme – (a) The Gift and Task of Unity in Christ – more on intrafaith ecumenism; (b) Unity in the Household of God – more on interfaith or wider ecumenism; and (c) Praying and Working Together for Unity – more on the implications and application. Participants were introduced to the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), co-organizers of ACTS. Aside from an input on analysis of Asian reality by a resource person, participants also shared their national situations, highlighting obstacles to unity and attempts at overcoming them. Other inputs were on conflict transformation, interfaith relations and cooperation, gender justice, and promoting integrity of creation.

During the evaluation session, participants shared that they learned a lot from this conference not only through the formal sessions but also through the informal sharing with one another outside the sessions. Some participants found three days to be too short and suggested that the next ACTS should be for 4 or 5 days. Although an initiative of CCA, ACTS has become a regular joint program of CCA and FABC. Although the original plan was for each organizing body to bring 20 theology students and 10 Evangelical and Pentecostal students, FABC could only bring 8. While efforts were made to invite the Asian Evangelical Alliance and the Asian Pentecostal Society, we were not able to receive any participant from these two bodies.

**C. Ecumenical Enablers' Training
25-29 April 2011
Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam**

After more than a year of preparation – including a visit to Vietnam in November 2009 to meet with theological alumni and other contacts – the first Ecumenical Enablers' Training was finally held in Ho Chi Minh City on 25-29 April. The theme of the training, "Living Together in the Household of God" – was a way to describe wider ecumenism in a context of much negative propaganda against the ecumenical movement. This program achieved its basic objective of gathering 44 Vietnamese participants and exposing them to the wider ecumenical vision of living together in the household of God. Participants consisted of pastors, youth and women leaders, and students in various mission training centers or institutes. They came from different denominations, mostly independent, unrecognized or underground house churches, including Charismatic and Pentecostal groups. A good number are self-made pastors who have gone through mostly evangelistic and church-planting type of training.

Program contents included daily morning worship led by the Vietnamese people; a general introduction and theme exposition on “Living Together in the Household of God” by Hope Antone; voices and perspectives on the theme by different groups – e.g. by God’s creation by Wati Longchar; people of different races/ethnicity/religions/cultures by Wati Longchar; people of different disability by Wati Longchar; Christian Household Today – a historical view of the backgrounds of denominational divisions – by HS Wilson; mission in the context of Asian plurality by HS Wilson; and Asian feminist theologizing by Hope Antone.

Some local organizers tried to warn resource persons not to go into interfaith and feminist issues. We explained that in Asia we cannot escape from these issues which should be part of our Asian theologizing. During the evaluation participants affirmed the importance of all issues tackled at the seminar. One even said that the government would have been happy to know of our concern for interreligious harmony in the country. Others were grateful for the encouragement in doing theologizing as Vietnamese Christians. One of the learning points from this program is that Christians would listen well to new ideas only if they are scripturally grounded.

D. Basic Ecumenical Course

2-15 May 2011

**Guest House and Conference Center, Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana,
Kaliurang, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

The Basic Ecumenical Course is a national level program under the overall CCA-initiated program called the Asian Ecumenical Course. Since not many participants can go to the regional program, and in order to encourage the national churches and councils to hold their own BECs and train more people, CCA initiated this BEC in Indonesia in cooperation with the Koinonia desk of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI). The program was able to achieve its main objective of generating a pool of 40 church leaders – from among women and laity, youth and students, clergy and seminarians from different denominations – who would be committed to the ecumenical agenda; and enhancing their capacity to respond effectively to the contemporary ecumenical challenges. Although the BEC was a national program, CCA intentionally invited 7 participants from the neighboring countries of Malaysia (3) and Timor Leste (4).

Program contents consisted of input presentations introducing the national (PGI), regional (CCA) and global expressions of the ecumenical movement; wider ecumenism; history of Christianity in Indonesia; history of the ecumenical movement in Indonesia; contemporary challenges – e.g. Indonesian realities, contextual theologies, feminist theologies, interfaith theologies, theologizing on caring for creation. Other activities were daily worship, discussions, writing of reflections, exposure to Indonesian realities including a visit to the Merapi volcano village, and reporting on their reflections, sharing of country realities, and writing of action plans. As part of their reflections, participants were asked to personally write down their new understanding of ecumenism and ecumenical movement. Finally they personally wrote down their action plans for their church/ institution and presented them to all participants. Some participants already had clear and concrete action plans; others still had to make the plans more operational. Action plans included recommendations to

their own synod, as well as networking with other churches in the same region or in the same issue. Most of the action plans had to do with Christian education for a more ecumenical point of view starting at the childhood level, gender equality and the role of women in church and society, ecumenical actions with other churches, ecumenical actions with people of other faiths for a certain issue including religious plurality, ecology and natural disaster.

Although we tried to ensure gender balance in the representation of participants, churches which sent one person tended to send a man more than a woman. Hence, there were only 10 women out of the 40 participants. There was a clear effort to encourage churches from far-flung areas of Indonesia to send a participant each to the BEC. Churches also took care of the round-trip ticket of their participants.

During the evaluation, participants expressed that the program helped to broaden their understandings of ecumenism and ecumenical movement. Although some participants were still struggling with the new concept of wider ecumenism, they said that the more important thing was to start acting ecumenically rather than thinking about it only. Participants from Timor Leste expressed that in all CCA programs they have attended, this was one where they fully understood everything and they are confident to take back something with them. It was also good for them to come as a team of 4 for it means that they can do more – both at the synod and congregational levels. Participants from Malaysia said that even though they struggled so much with the language (bahasa Malayu being different from Bahasa Indonesia), it was a humbling experience for them to listen more rather than talk more. They felt that while it was more logical for Malaysians to join the Indonesian BEC (the two countries sharing similar realities), they hoped for a time when Malaysia would be up for its own BEC so more local pastors and seminary students would be exposed to ecumenism.

E. Ecumenical Lectures

E.1. Sekola Tinggi Teologi BNKP Sundermann Gunungsitoli, North Sumatera, Nias Island, Indonesia 9-11 May 2011

The Ecumenical Lecture Series has been conceived for CCA to reach out to the church-related seminaries of its constituency by sending a lecturer to address certain topics raised by the seminaries or to simply expose seminaries to the wider ecumenical vision. This is one activity which can reach out to more people and make CCA more visible at the ground level. At the same time, it is also owned by the host seminary or organizing body who then provides hospitality to the lecturer.

The Ecumenical Lecture Series in STT Sundermann, Nias, Indonesia was planned for two groups: one in the morning was on “Mission in the Context of Asia” for the student body of around 60 students in missiology and another in the afternoon was an introduction to CCA and its wider ecumenical vision for the faculty and church leaders in Nias. Each session was followed by a time of questions and answers. The afternoon session ended with a shared meal at the campus attended by the faculty and church leaders.

In the morning following the lecture, a number of students expressed their gratitude for an Asian perspective of mission – which they could very much relate to. Church leaders in the afternoon expressed that doing Asian theologizing is still new for them, that contextualization needs hermeneutics and that they lack human resources to help them. They asked how CCA could help promote ways of doing Asian theologizing, apart from the *Sound the Bamboo*. I mentioned that CCA used to have a program called Reading the Bible with New Eyes. Perhaps the next CCA staff can revive this program and call it “Reading the Bible through Asian Eyes” so that it should have an interfaith component. However, in order to have more impact, a program like this should not be held at regional level but at national levels.

Although the travel to Gunungsitoli, Nias took a whole day (each way), it was quite worth it. Reaching out to the remote areas where our member churches are, and where their theological institutions are, is quite an important way of showing them that CCA cares for them. It was not possible to do similar lectures in Halmahera this time although the CCA General Secretary had encouraged me to go there. A plan to do some lectures in STT Jakarta on my way back was not pushed through because of the exam schedule.

Doing Ecumenical Lectures back to back with an ongoing program is a good way to maximize our time and resources while being in a particular country. It is also a good way to make the CCA presence more known and felt by member churches and their related seminaries. It would be important to remember these remote seminaries and churches when planning to invite younger faculty and theology students to future CCA programs.

**E.2. Duta Wacana Christian University
24 May 2011**

Around 25 theology students, faculty and church women and attended the lecture on “Towards Healing and Wholeness: Ending Sexual Abuses in the Churches” by Liza Lamis, CCA Communications Consultant. Liza did a study with a group of women for her doctoral thesis on ending abuses in the church in the Philippines. The lecture was sponsored by the university’s Faculty of Theology. Practical questions were raised during the open forum like what can churches do to respond to abuse cases that are just ignored and continue to be allowed to happen.

To help the local churches, Dr Lamis sent Asnath Natar and Hendri Widjayatsih who are both faculty members a soft copy of the CCA Policy on Sexual Harassment and the website address of a sample policy on sexual misconduct in the church, as reference materials to help local churches take action towards ending sexual abuses.

**E.3. Satya Wacana Christian University (UKSW)
25 May 2011**

The same lecture topic at UKDW was given by Liza Lamis to the audience at UKSW of around 50 participants who are all graduating theology students of Rev. Dr. Daniel Nuhamara, immediate past president of PERSETIA in Indonesia. From the open forum it was sensed that the issue of sexual abuses in the church is not new at all, but is always swept under the rug, so to speak. Some questions raised were related to risks in

exposing abuses and how local churches should respond especially to victims and their families. Liza challenged the students who will be pastoring churches very soon to be more deliberate and keen in responding to abuses as it is a social justice issue.

F. Ecumenical Enablers' Training
23-27 May 2011
Kathmandu, Nepal

This second Ecumenical Enablers' Training (EET) with the National Council of Churches in Nepal (NCCN) was able to train 34 pastors, church leaders, youth and women from various independent denominations and expose them to the ecumenical vision of living together in the household of God. Participants included pastors, youth and women. Through EET, CCA has tried to reach out to its younger or newer members in countries where there is a lack of ecumenical theological education and where many pastors are self-made or with very little theological education.

Program contents included daily morning worship led by NCCN with Dr. KB Rokaya, General Secretary, giving the reflection. After a general introduction and theme exposition on "Living Together in the Household of God", inputs were given on various perspectives – e.g. God's creation, women, youth and children, poor and oppressed, people of different ethnicity/religions/cultures, the sick and those with HIV and AIDS, those different denominations and ecumenical organizations. Resource persons (Rev. Dhanbir Rai, a doctoral student at the Serampore University and a faculty member of Clark Theological College in Nagaland, India; Dr. Limatula Longkumer, vice principal of Jorhat Theological College in Nagaland, India; and Dr. Hope S. Antone, joint executive secretary of CCA-FMU) took turns in making inputs on the various topics.

Participants said this training opened to them new ideas especially about relating with women, youth and children, the whole creation as household of God, and people with HIV and AIDS. One participant confessed he had wrongly taught in a school about man and woman, using the creation stories in Genesis, and he is grateful for the new way of reading these stories. Participants affirmed the importance of this training and suggested holding the next one outside Kathmandu to reach out to more people.

The idea that participants of this training will do echo training in their home churches or communities is too much to expect. Some of the younger participants are actually high school and college students from the remote areas currently attending NCCN related churches while studying in Kathmandu.

Actually this second training was originally set to be held outside Kathmandu in 2010 but due to the unstable political situation in Nepal, it was postponed to 2011. During the May program sporadic rallies were organized by the people in relation to the writing of a new Constitution in Nepal. When rallies are held, transportation and businesses are shut down. So this should be a consideration when planning the next training.

G. Networking Activities

G.1. Planning Meeting with FABC-OEIA on the Second Encounter of Christian and Muslim Leaders St. Louis Hospital, Bangkok 16-17 January 2011

Together with CCA General Secretary Henriette Hutabarat Lebang, CCA-FMU executive staff Hope S. Antone represented the CCA in a planning meeting with staff of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA) of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) in Bangkok, Thailand. Also present in this meeting were two Muslim leaders from Bangladesh and the Philippines. The purpose of this meeting was to plan for a larger meeting which is now called the Second Encounter of Christian and Muslim Leaders in Asia. The first encounter was called the Bishops-Ulama Conference (BUC) which was held in Manila, Philippines. However, recognizing that the participants are not only Christian bishops and Muslim Ulamas, the planning group decided to rename it the Second Encounter of Christian and Muslim Leaders. The group considered the possibility of holding this big gathering in early 2012, which is aimed to make a Christian response to the document, "A Common Word between Us and You". The planning meeting was hosted by FABC-OEIA at the FABC Documentation Center in St. Louis Hospital, Bangkok.

G.2. Two meetings on Ecumenical Theological Education Bossey Ecumenical Institute, Switzerland 22-25 February 2011

Hope S. Antone attended the ETE Grant Giving Meeting (a small group) on 22-23 February, representing the Christian Conference of Asia. The objective of said meeting was to review the project proposals received from the regions and to decide on the grants. After this meeting, she continued to attend the ETE Accompaniment Group Meeting on 23-25 February. The objectives of said meeting were to assess the general situation and new directions in WCC, particularly where ETE is concerned; to hear reports from the regions and ecumenical partners; to come up with ETE mandates and tasks for 2011-13. Hope Antone reported on behalf of CCA in the said meeting.

G.3. Ecumenical Theological Education Queens' College, Birmingham, United Kingdom 7-9 April 2011

Hope S. Antone attended the International Conference of the WCC/ETE with Ecumenical Partners in Birmingham organized by the World Council of Churches- Ecumenical Theological Education and the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education. She made a powerpoint presentation on the ETE work in Asia.

G.4. Asian Forum on Theological Education and other Meetings Trinity Theological College, Singapore 8-14 June 2011

Following the July 2010 meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, the WCC-ETE, in cooperation with CCA-FMU, called together 15 representatives from regional and national

theological associations, networks and partner organizations for theological education in Asia at Trinity Theological College, Singapore, to strengthen common witness to Christ in engaging for theological education in Asia together. Hope Antone led one morning worship and reported on the role of CCA in ETE in Asia.

**G.5. Consultation on “Mission in Asia”
Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), Korea
25-29 April 2011**

The Rev. Dr. Sung Kook PARK was invited by the PROK to give a theme presentation on “Mission and Missionaries in Asia” at a consultation of Missionaries of the PROK. Around 120 missionaries and church leaders came together to reflect on global mission and share information about their activities in their respective mission fields.

**G.6. Consultation on “Migration and Migrants”, WCC - CCA Program on
Migration and Migrants
16 - 21 July 2011
Bangkok, Thailand**

The Rev. Dr. Sung Kook PARK was invited by the WCC-CCA joint program to lead the opening worship and deliver a theological reflection on the given theme. Along with critical reflection from different perspectives (economic, political, environmental etc.) the reflection concluded with an appeal to the churches and to all faith-based organizations to re-acknowledge the ontological element of faith being inviting and accommodating.

JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE (JID)

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

A. Working Committee Meeting, Interfaith Cooperation Forum Davao City, Mindanao, Philippines 7 – 9 February 2011

CCA as one of the project holders for the Interfaith Cooperation Forum was represented by Charlie Ocampo, JID Executive Secretary in a Working Committee meeting held at the Brokenshire Convention Center in Davao City, Mindanao in the Philippines on February 7-9, 2011.

At this meeting, the different roles of the ICF national coordinators and working committee members were discussed. The national coordinators are responsible for ICF activities within their countries and the working committee members focusing on ICF programs throughout the region. The role of the ICF national coordinators was further defined as holding one or two meetings annually with other SOP alumni and planning and organizing activities in their countries with them, expanding the ICF network in their countries and recommending SOP alumni in their countries for ICF internships. In addition, the national coordinators would be involved in developing an ICF network at the sub-regional level—for instance, in South Asia and the Mekong Region countries of Southeast Asia.

Possible workshops for 2011 discussed at the meeting include a writing workshop to produce a book on indigenous spirituality, a similar writing workshop on the topic of Justpeace education for children and youth and other workshops on faith and gender, initiating interfaith dialogue, conducting media campaigns and producing and making use of documentaries in ICF's activities.

The last major initiative discussed at the Davao meeting was the development of a network of religious and academic institutions in Asia to which SOP alumni could be referred for further study and that could provide resource people for ICF programs. ICF also plans to foster an interfaith exchange program of religious scholars between these institutions.

CCA runs a School for Peace Advocates in the Churches, a week-long workshop and exposure but also recommends peace advocates to the ICF for longer training period and in efforts at strengthening the role of Muslims, Buddhists and other faith traditions in peace building.

Immediately following the Davao Meeting, Charlie Ocampo met with the Rev. Fr. Rex Reyes, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the Philippines; and Ms Carmencita Karagdag, Coordinator, Peace for Life Foundation to discuss future collaboration with CCA on peace and human rights.

**B. General Council Executive (GCE) Meeting, United Church of Canada (UCC)
Toronto, Canada
7 - 9 May 2011**

The GCE of the United Church of Canada met for the fourth time during the current General Council at the UCC Church House in Toronto, Canada on 7 - 9 May 2011.

The main agenda of the GCE included Reports from the Moderator and the General Secretary, including staff movements and unit name changes in the General Council Office, notably including the change from Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations (JGER) to Partners in Mission.

Reports were also presented on Exploring Identify and Connection, the Middle East Working Group, Covenanting for Life, Task Group on the Basis of Union, Permanent Committee on Finance, Governance and Agenda, Ministry Employment Policies and Services, and Programs for Mission and Ministry.

Reports from the Commission on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools, the World Council of Churches, Aboriginal Ministries Council, and an In-Camera Session of the voting members were held on the second day.

On the third day was heard the presentation by Carlos Ocampo, representing the global partners, on Asian realities and the work of CCA, including a video presentation, on youth peace initiatives in a Burmese refugee camp on the Thai-Burmese border. A challenge was given to the churches in Canada to continue their advocacy with the Canadian government on the impact of mining companies and other foreign policies on communities in the Southern countries where UCC support partner churches, like in the Philippines.

The Accommodation Working Group was asked by the GCE to refine a proposal to be approved by the GCE sub-executive and to bring an options proposal to the November 2011 GCE meeting.

Theological reflections and worship provided timely and inspiring breathers to the GCE meetings.

**C. AGAPE Reference Group Meeting
Kingston, Jamaica
14-17 May 2011**

The AGAPE Working Group of the World Council of Churches met immediately before the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica.

AGAPE Working Group meets on a regular basis to report back on the regional consultations that have been held between meetings and to plan regional consultations still to be conducted. This time, Asia, Latin America, and Africa reported on follow up events on each region, while the North America preparatory group reported on plans for

the North American AGAPE Poverty, Wealth and Ecology Consultation to be held in Calgary, Canada on 7-11 November 2011. In line with the North American Consultation, an extensive Study/Report on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology in Canada was also presented at the Meeting.

Also presented at the Meeting was the Final Report on the PWE European Consultation, held in Budapest, Hungary on 8-12 November 2010. Particular attention in the Consultation was given to the recommendation to support the call of the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, "in cooperation with WCC and other ecumenical bodies, networks and organizations, to prepare a global ecumenical conference to propose the framework and criteria for a new international financial and economic architecture that is based on the principles of economic, social and climate justice". The Consultation also issued the "Budapest Call for Climate Justice".

Defining the greed line in theological and socio-political terms has been a focus for AGAPE, and Dr. Konrad Raiser, former WCC General Secretary heads this Working Group. The greed line will have some implications on the churches' understanding of greed and levels of human needs and consumption.

In the Meeting, Carlos Ocampo reported on the Panalipdan, a Consultation of close to 400 leaders of lumad or indigenous communities in Mindanao struggling on issues of ecological justice, the negative impact of mining and the impoverization of communities as a result of mining and other irresponsible environmental human activities.

The publication coming out of the Asia and Pacific PWE Consultation is a very useful reading on the relationship between wealth creation and poverty among communities.

On 16-17 May, the three Working Groups on Climate Change, Water Network, and AGAPE met in efforts to listen to each Group's concerns and to develop a common platform for the IEPC and the WCC.

**D. International Ecumenical Peace Convocation
University of West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica
18-24 May 2011**

IEPC is an ecumenical consultation to mark the end of the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV). The Consultation format is made up of Bible studies, reasoning workshop sessions and plenary presentations on: Peace in the Community, Peace with the Earth, Peace in the Marketplace, and Peace among the Peoples.

Carlos Ocampo helped organize two Reasoning Sessions: 1) Empire, Violence, and Interfaith Responses; and 2) Campaign for a Peace Treaty to Replace the Armistice Agreement in the Korean Peninsula. The first Workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Peace for Life Foundation (PFL), while the second Workshop was with the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK). Both Workshops are identified as priority areas for CCA's Justice, International Affairs, Development and Service Programs.

The Convocation also highlighted discussions on the churches' theological understanding of peace, market place, and globalization which represents a significant stride in the active search and advocacy for peace and human rights.

Recommendations from the IEPC will be brought to the 2013 WCC Assembly in Busan, South Korea.

CCA's support for the Korean Ecumenical Forum, a consortium of churches and ecumenical agencies involved in peace and reunification in the Korean Peninsula was also highlighted by the participation of its staff and officers.

Recommendations for CCA include:

- To continue supporting the signature campaign for a Peace Treaty in the Korean Peninsula;
- To continue playing an active role in the Korean Ecumenical Forum;
- To continue supporting initiatives of the Peace for Life Foundation.