



**Christian Conference of Asia
Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (AEWA) 2023**

*Kottayam, Kerala, India
25 to 29 September 2023*

Asian Women: Journeying Towards the Renewal and Restoration of God's Creation

*When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104.30)
Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old. (Lamentation 5.21)*

Background Note

The goodness of all that God has made and the co-existence and interconnectedness of all creations are revelations of God's presence and divine goodness. For the Christian faith confessing God as Creator, upholding the dignity and integrity of God's creation is integral. Therefore, the care for God's creation is a continuing mission toward renewal and restoration. However, the current environmental crises show us how God's creation is plundered and destroyed. With the present environmental challenges, such as the impacts of climate change, pollution, deforestation, and other forms of environmental degradation, the call for renewal and restoration of our relationship with the Creator and all creation is indispensable.

Asia-Pacific is one of the regions most affected by the impact of climate change and is projected to emerge greater in the future. With sizable coastlines, low-mendacity territories, and plenty of small island states, its geography makes it vulnerable to growing sea ranges and climate extremes. Indeed, climate change continues to be the gravest threat to God's creation. The worsening impacts of climate change have severely affected various communities where our churches in Asia are located. Inadequate mitigation mechanisms make Asian countries even more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The participation of churches in climate action can significantly contribute to addressing climate change locally and globally. Grassroots and community-led awareness and capacity building on environmental protection, climate adaptation, and mitigation are crucial measures that must be prioritised. The collective voice of churches is also essential in making the rich countries accountable for implementing mitigation measures critical to our advocacies for climate change. Churches will be able to contribute to the mission of developing a culture and ethics of protection for all of God's creation and building peace with justice in God's oikos. It is relevant that the churches in Asia collectively pray and act toward the renewal and restoration of God's creation. The need for urgency in responding to the challenges of environmental degradation must be a priority in the ecumenical agenda.

Women and Climate Change

Climate change has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of women and girls to violence and exploitation. They continue to suffer neglect, marginalisation, and inequalities in access to information, services, and equal opportunities amid the worsening impact of climate change. Women and girls remain marginalised in meaningful participation and decision-making processes for climate response and action. Hence, it is imperative that women collectively act and struggle toward creating spaces and opportunities to empower and enhance their capacities to address the many challenges women face amid the climate

emergency. It is necessary to amplify women's voices for an inclusive climate response and demand accountability for the horrendous impact of climate change in all parts of the world.

CCA affirms that women in the churches have the capacities and potential to influence and create an impact in communities and the larger society. It also asserts that women, who are more than half of the world's population, are and can be effective and efficient actors in climate action/response. CCA envisions women's active and meaningful participation in the movements for climate justice and defending the integrity of God's creation.

Asian Ecumenical Women Assembly (AEWA) - 2023

The Asian Ecumenical Women Assembly (AEWA) - 2023 is one of the pre-assemblies of the CCA 15th General Assembly. AEWA-2023 bears the theme, "Asian Women: Journeying Towards Renewal and Restoration of Creation". This pre-assembly (AEWA-2023) aims to deepen the commitment and engagement of women of faith across Asia for gender and climate justice advocacy. It will provide spaces for discussions on the integral role of addressing gender inequalities in climate action/ response. It also hopes to strengthen the mobilisation and solidarity of churches in addressing environmental/climate concerns.

Specifically, the assembly will provide awareness on the issue of climate justice and its impact through discussions and reflections on the biblico-theological underpinnings of renewal and restoration of God's creation. It also aims to gather recommendations from the participants in strengthening the Asian church's programs and ministries related to ecological/climate justice and sustainable development.

Participants

Women delegates of the 15th General Assembly representing CCA member churches and councils; representatives from the Women Ministries in India; and church/ecumenical women organisations in Asia are expected to participate in AEWA-2023.

Venue and Date

The AEWA-2023 will be held in Kottayam, Kerala, India from 25 September (Arrival) to 29 September (Departure) 2023.

Arrival and Departure

Participants are expected to arrive in the evening of 25 September or early morning of 26 September. They can plan their return travel in the afternoon of 29 September. This will be an opportunity for AEWA-2023 participants to attend the inaugural session of the CCA 15th General Assembly as well as other sessions until 1:00 pm on 29 September.

Registration Fee

The registration fee for AEWA-2023 participants is USD50. Participants of the CCA General Assembly who will participate in AEWA-2023 will be waived the registration fee.