



Christian Conference of Asia

*from Jakarta
to Kottayam*

***The Journey of the Christian Conference of Asia
2015 to 2023***



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FROM JAKARTA TO KOTTAYAM

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A Report of the Programmes and Activities of the
Christian Conference of Asia from 2015 to 2023

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Introduction

‘From Jakarta to Kottayam’

Dr Mathews George Chunakara

General Secretary, CCA

Humanity has been facing unprecedented challenges during the past decade. Since the last General Assembly of CCA was held in 2015, Asia too has confronted an array of difficulties. The headlines appearing every day chronicled grim realities across Asia. As geopolitical, geo-economic, and geo-strategic landscapes have rapidly evolved, instances of heightened conflicts, violence, and displacement, eroding trust, and ecological imbalances have become commonplace. Democratic values, human rights, and the security of people face unrelenting threats in several parts of Asia. A vast number of Asians continue their struggles for livelihoods, life-giving health, peace with justice, and human dignity. Amidst these formidable challenges, the cherished Asian values of communal harmony and religious tolerance, nurtured over generations, have suffered a series of setbacks in recent decades.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the churches and the ecumenical movement in Asia have tried to promote the vision of hope amidst adversities and anxieties. With a constitutional mandate, CCA’s vision, mission, and purpose revolve around working as God’s instrument for the Church in Asia for life together in a common obedience of witness to the mission of God in the world. As such, the CCA has been trying to perform its mission to serve as an organ and a forum of continuing cooperation among the churches and national Christian bodies in Asia within the framework of the wider ecumenical movement. In order to

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achieve these goals, the CCA continued its mission in manifold ways in the post-Jakarta Assembly period as well.

Every CCA General Assembly is an occasion to set up priorities for the next quinquennium. The new strategic programme directions and plans adopted by the new governing board of CCA in October 2015, started implementations from the beginning of 2016 with a prime focus on the promotion and strengthening of ecclesial unity, stimulation of initiatives in dynamic Christian living and action, development of effective Christian responses to the challenges of emerging contexts, promotion of relationships with people of other faiths in Asia, protection of human rights and human dignity, peace with justice and the promotion of care for the creation. CCA has initiated and implemented programmes and activities through four programme priority areas during the past eight years.

This report, 'From Jakarta to Kottayam' summarises the programmes and activities planned, facilitated, and implemented by CCA during the past eight years. It is hoped that this report will serve as a comprehensive guide to understand the mandates. As the 15th CCA General Assembly prepares to discern the future direction and programme priorities of the CCA for the next five years, this report is offered to the Assembly participants and indeed to all in the Asian ecumenical movement in the hope that it will serve as a basis for assessing work conducted by CCA during the past eight years.



Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA

Jakarta to Kottayam: An Overview

In the tapestry of our shared ecumenical pilgrimage, the General Assemblies of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) emerge as radiant mosaics, composed of the diverse hues of Asian Christian faith traditions, the interwoven threads of unity, and the transformative brushstrokes of action. Although the General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the CCA, it is also the largest representative gathering of the Asian churches, where the pulse of the Asian churches resonates with resolute purpose. The General Assembly is the visible manifestation of ‘life together’ of the Asian churches, a coming-together that resounds with hope and commitment to collective witness, service, and mission. As each Assembly convenes, it weaves new chapters into the Asian ecumenical pilgrimage, reflecting the evolution of Christian thought, expression, and action.

This comprehensive report of the CCA’s journey over the past eight years from Jakarta to Kottayam is meant to acquaint the participants of the 15th CCA General Assembly—some of whom may even be discovering the CCA for only the first time—with the work the CCA has done, empowering them to critically examine prior programmes while taking decisions for future programmatic work. It is thus also important at this stage to keep in mind the purpose and objectives outlined in the constitution of the CCA:

Believing that the purpose of God for the Church in Asia is life together in a common obedience of witness to the mission of God in the world, the CCA exists as an organ and a forum of continuing cooperation among the churches and national Christian bodies in Asia within the framework of the wider ecumenical movement. To achieve this purpose, the CCA shall have the following objectives:

- a. The promotion and strengthening of the unity of the Church in Asia.*
- b. The exploration of opportunities and the promotion of joint action for the fulfilment of the mission of God in Asia and throughout the world.*
- c. The encouragement of Asian contributions to Christian thought, worship, and action throughout the world.*

- d. The development of mutual awareness, fellowship, and sharing among the churches in the region, and of relationships with other regional ecumenical organisations and the World Council of Churches.*
- e. The promotion of common study and action in such fields as evangelism, service, pluralism, social and human development, and international relations.*
- f. The stimulation of initiatives and experiments in dynamic Christian living and action.*
- g. The development of effective Christian responses to the challenges of changing societies in Asia.*
- h. The development and promotion of relationships with people of other faiths in Asia.*
- i. The protection of human rights and human dignity and the promotion of caring for the creation.*

The 14th CCA General Assembly, held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 21 to 27 May 2015 focused on the theme ‘Living Together in the Household of God’ and encompassed aspects such as ‘Witnessing Together as Asian Churches’, ‘Moving Beyond the Boundaries of the Church’, ‘Managing with Responsibility’, and ‘Sustaining God’s Creation’. In different sessions such as the Thematic Presentations and the *Sarasehan* Deliberative Sessions, the Assembly participants reflected on the challenges of the time and proposed recommendations for the future work of the CCA through the decision-making Business Sessions.

The programme implementation period that ensued after the 14th General Assembly was marked by the new Strategic Programme Plan which re-organised the programmatic thrusts and departments of the CCA and was approved by the Executive Committee in October 2015. The core programmes of the CCA are Mission in Unity and Contextual Theology (MU), Ecumenical Leadership Formation and Spirituality (EF), Building Peace and Moving Beyond Conflicts (BP), and Prophetic Diakonia and Advocacy (PD). The Action Together to Combat HIV and AIDS in Asia (ATCHAA) is a special project. Under this new programme structure, gender concerns and youth issues are transversal across all programme areas. This was a shift from the earlier

programme structure with three key programme areas, namely, Faith, Mission, and Unity (FMU), Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice, and Youth Empowerment (EGY), and Justice, International Affairs, and Development and Service (JID). Each section within this report explores the rationale of the programme area and the numerous sub-programmes conducted under it.

The Strategic Programme Plan, scheduled for implementation from 2015 to 2020 and leading up to the 15th CCA General Assembly in 2020, faced an unexpected and grave challenge with the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, causing widespread health crises and socio-economic-political impacts across Asia. An immense number of lives were lost, especially within Asian countries. As life came to a standstill, we reflected on our shared vulnerabilities and expressed solidarity. Consequently, the General Assembly and other planned programmes had to be postponed, prompting the CCA to swiftly adapt by organising a series of webinars on COVID-19 and related topics like health, gender, children, migration, and trafficking, as well as a number of relevant programmes conducted entirely online. The CCA also accompanied churches in crisis situations during the pandemic. The CCA office adhered to Thai government directives and transitioned to remote work while successfully engaging a diverse audience through virtual programmes. As global travel restrictions eased in 2022, the CCA reintroduced in-person programmes and decided to convene the 15th CCA General Assembly in Kottayam, India, in 2023.

It is hoped that this report serves as a comprehensive guide to how the CCA has tried its level-best to stay true to the mandate given by its member constituencies, while also empowering the very same constituencies to address the diverse challenges they face and to respond dynamically to them. The intention of this report is to offer a basis for evaluating the work carried out by the CCA in the previous eight years and to discern the future path and programme priorities for the next implementation period, for the participants of the 15th General Assembly and for the wider Asian ecumenical movement.



General Secretariat

The General Secretary holds a pivotal role at the Christian Conference of Asia, overseeing the programmatic, administrative, and financial activities of the organisation through the General Secretariat. This includes leading the staff team and ensuring smooth operations, as well as fostering strong relationships with member churches and councils across the expansive Asia region—from Iran in the west to Japan in the east, and from Nepal in the north to New Zealand in the south.

Sharing and promoting CCA's activities encourages joint action and ministries that reflect unity in Christ, urging the CCA member constituencies to contribute their resources and support the common ecumenical ministry facilitated by the CCA. The General Secretary also walks alongside member churches and councils, addressing their specific needs for capacity-building and helping them navigate emerging challenges.

The General Secretariat liaisons between the CCA and its governing and advisory bodies, such as the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Programme Committee, and Investment Sub-Committee, its Officers (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Treasurer), and the boards of the CCA Hong Kong Company and the CCA Thailand Foundation.

Another key responsibility of the General Secretariat is building and reinforcing connections with other ecumenical organisations in Asia, and even globally. The past eight years have sustained fruitful relationships with the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) and the Asian Evangelical Alliance (AEA). The GS also prioritises establishing ties with churches and organisations that are not members of the CCA, while also focusing on interfaith relations and dialogue.

Through these efforts, the General Secretary ensures effective coordination, unity, and common goals in pursuing the CCA's ecumenical mission.

Coordination of Administration and Programmes

The CCA's programme structure underwent significant changes starting in 2015 due to emerging priorities and financial constraints.

The 14th General Assembly held in Jakarta in 2015 highlighted the need to restructure the CCA's programme areas, resulting in a new five-year Strategic Programme Plan. The Constitutional Revision Committee recognised the need for a new programme structure. The 14th Assembly instructed the new Executive Committee to restructure programme areas and align them more with emerging ecumenical, ecclesial, and missiological contexts and realities.

The General Secretariat developed a bold and fresh new five-year Strategic Programme Plan for the period of 2016 to 2020, which largely reflected the vision of the CCA for shaping a new paradigm in 'living together in the household of God', which was approved by the Executive Committee in October 2015. The revised programme structure was organised into four core areas: Mission and Unity and Contextual Theology (MU), Ecumenical Leadership Formation and Ecumenical Spirituality (EF), Building Peace and Moving Beyond Conflicts (BP), and Prophetic Diakonia and Advocacy (PD), along with the special Action Together to Combat HIV and AIDS in Asia (ATCHAA) project.

The CCA also addressed financial challenges by implementing new income generation and travel subsidy policies, encouraging greater collaboration from its members. These new policies were approved by the Executive Committee and took effect on 1 January 2016.

The mandate of the General Secretariat via the Strategic Programme Plan was extended from five years to eight years, given the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic from the beginning of 2020. The 15th General Assembly in 2023 will mark the end of the ongoing implementation period.

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Programmatic Areas	Number of Programmes Organised (2015–2023)	Number of Full-time Participants Who Attended (2015–2023)
General Secretariat	26	387 (+6,000 at Diamond Jubilee)
Mission in Unity and Contextual Theology	27	1,975
Ecumenical Leadership Formation and Ecumenical Spirituality	48	2,004
Building Peace and Moving Beyond Conflicts	46	1,867
Prophetic Diakonia and Advocacy	40	1,339
Special Project: Action Together to Combat HIV and AIDS in Asia (ATCHAA)	60	2,568
Total	247	10,140

Governing Board and Advisory Committees

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly. It exercises the powers of the General Assembly in between meetings of the General Assemblies. It is mainly responsible for ensuring the implementation of the General Assembly decisions and oversight of the CCA's work. It meets annually, or more frequently if necessary.

The first meeting of the newly constituted Executive Committee took place from 13–16 October 2015 at the headquarters of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), in Bangkok, Thailand. The Executive Committee considered Asian challenges and realities, and discussed how the CCA could remain relevant amidst these

changes. The 14th General Assembly addressed critical issues and identified ecumenical responses, forming the basis for new visions, goals, and programmatic thrusts. These directions differed from the existing programme structure of the CCA which had been in place since 2000. A new framework was necessitated, with effective management and communication strategies. Dr Mathews George Chunakara, the CCA General Secretary, proposed a new programme structure with defined priorities for each focus area, that was in line with the CCA's enduring vision and principles. This was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

The CCA Executive Committee has been actively addressing important matters and developments over the past eight years. In 2016, they discussed various topics such as financial matters, programme reports, and the proposed relocation of the CCA headquarters. In 2017 and 2018, the Executive Committee received reports on programmes and activities, offered direction for property development, and authorised preparations for significant events. In 2019, the Executive Committee held a milestone meeting in Cambodia and made significant decisions on organisational evaluation and staff regulations. In 2020 and 2021, the Executive Committee met online—a first in the history of the CCA. They addressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and how the CCA adapted to the circumstances and implemented online programmes. In 2022 and 2023, the Executive Committee finalised the 15th CCA General Assembly's dates and location in India and approved the theme 'God, Renew Us in Your Spirit and Restore the Creation', focusing on spiritual renewal and environmental restoration. The Executive Committee will meet one final time immediately before the General Assembly begins in September 2023.

Throughout the years, the Executive Committee received various reports on programmes, financial sustainability, regional updates, and staff changes. The Executive Committee has been critical in providing strong support to the General Secretariat's work, ensuring that the CCA remains relevant and effective. The

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Executive Committee navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and took the necessary decisions to ensure the organisation of the 15th CCA General Assembly. As representatives of the CCA, some Executive Committee members, from time to time, have also attended key events and conferences on behalf of the CCA.

The Programme Committee

The Programme Committee met twice during the eight-year period. In its first meeting in December 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the Programme Committee discussed and reviewed the Strategic Programme Plan for 2016–2020, which introduced four new programme areas. In its subsequent meeting in October 2017 in Yangon, the Committee conducted a thorough review of the programmes implemented under these thematic areas since 2015.

The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is appointed by the Executive Committee, and held meetings in July and October 2016 in Medan, Indonesia, and Chiang Mai, Thailand, respectively. In 2017, the Finance Committee met alongside the Executive Committee in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to review the financial situation, revise the 2017 budget, and develop the budget framework for 2018. Similarly, in 2018 and 2019, the Finance Committee met in Chiang Mai and Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to assess the CCA's financial situation, revise budgets, and plan budget frameworks for upcoming years. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the Committee convened online, addressing financial matters amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and approving budget frameworks for 2022 and 2023. Additionally, they received reports from the Investment Committee based in Hong Kong.

Officers' Meetings

The CCA Officers are the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator, the Treasurer, and the General Secretary. In 2019, the Officers held

meetings in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Hsinchu, Taiwan. In Phnom Penh, they reviewed decisions made by the Executive Committee regarding the 15th General Assembly and discussed proposals for CCA's property in Chiang Mai. They also met with officials from the Cambodian Ministry of Religion. In July, they assessed the Executive Committee's agenda and evaluated the CCA General Secretary's performance. In November, in Hsinchu, Taiwan, they continued deliberations on preparations for the 15th General Assembly, including the venue, schedule, seating allocations, and other details. In 2021, the Officers met online twice to prepare for the Executive Committee meeting and address organisational and administrative matters.

Other Sub-Committees

From time to time, the Executive Committee sets up sub-Committees to better guide their decisions on specific matters. The CCA Investment Sub-Committee, based in Hong Kong, is responsible for monitoring and managing the CCA's investment portfolio and provides annual reports to the Executive Committee. The CCA Headquarters and Property Development Sub-Committee met in 2018 to explore the potential development and construction of the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai.

The CCA Foundation Thailand is a legally registered entity in Thailand. The Foundation Board includes the General Secretary and representatives from the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), who are Thai citizens. The Board meets periodically to oversee the operations of the CCA office in Chiang Mai and is responsible for sponsoring visa and work permit applications for the international staff.

Church and Ecumenical Relations

The essence of the CCA's existence lies in fostering ecumenical relationships with its member churches and councils, as well as with other affiliated ecumenical organisations at regional and global levels. These connections form the bedrock of the CCA's

vitality as they facilitate the establishment of robust networks and the active engagement and participation of all its member constituencies. By promoting such involvement and fostering a sense of ownership among its constituents, the CCA paves the way for enhanced cooperation, unity, and a shared commitment to its mission.

Visits and Meetings of CCA Staff to Other Events

The following meetings and events were attended by the CCA General Secretary, CCA Staff, or eminent persons deputed by the CCA.

2015

- CCA staff attended the Consultation on ‘Women in Theological Education and Women in Theological Movements’ organised by the FTESEA and ATESEA from 21–25 June 2015 in Manila, the Philippines.
- CCA staff were present at the 19th General Assembly and 3rd Youth Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs from 6–11 September 2015 in Daejeon, Korea.
- CCA staff attended the Ecumenical Forum on Peace in North-East Asia held from 11–13 September 2015 in Seoul, Korea.
- CCA staff participated in the Religions for Peace International Global Religious Youth Leadership Summit, from 26–28 November 2015 in Paris, France.

2016

- CCA staff were present at the Asian Conference of Ecumenical Sunday School Programme, in January 2016, in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- The General Secretary attended and delivered the keynote address at a sub-regional ‘ASEAN Mission Consultation’ organised by the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) from 27–30 March 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The General Secretary delivered the thematic address at the 28th Quadrennial Assembly of the National Council of

Churches in India (NCCI) from 28–30 April 2016 in Jabalpur, India.

- The General Secretary attended the convocation of the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Theological Seminary in April 2016 in Kerala, India.
- CCA staff visited the Hong Kong Christian Council and Hong Kong Council of Churches of Christ in China in May 2016.
- The General Secretary visited CCA member churches and councils in June 2016 in Tokyo, Japan.
- The General Secretary was invited as a speaker to the Consultation on Campaign against the Revision of Article 9 of Japan's Constitution, 7–9 June 2016, in Osaka, Japan.
- CCA Staff Dr Alphinus Kambodji presented greetings on behalf of the General Secretary, and attended, the Seventh General Assembly of the Protestant Church in Timor Leste (IPTL) which was held from 4–8 July 2016 in Dili, Timor Leste.
- The General Secretary attended the 25th anniversary celebrations of the priestly ordination of women in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, held on 7 and 8 September 2016 in Chennai, India.



*Roundtable meeting with ecumenical partners in October 2016
in Chiang Mai, Thailand.*

- A roundtable meeting with ecumenical partners took place at the CCA headquarters from 25–26 October

2016. Representatives from eleven ecumenical partner organisations were in attendance. The primary objective of the 2016 meeting was to update the partners on the new programme and administrative structures, as well as the Strategic Programme Plan for the upcoming implementation period. Detailed reports were provided on various topics, including CCA's programmes and activities, the post-Jakarta Assembly programme direction and structure, the organisation's financial profile and income strategies, and the challenges facing CCA's mission and witness. Each session offered an opportunity for the partners to express their concerns, ask questions, and provide feedback for the improvement of CCA's work.

2017

- The General Secretary attended the General Assembly (Triennial Synod) of the Church of South India in January 2017 in Kottayam, India.
- The General Secretary visited the Myanmar Council of Churches and CCA member churches in Myanmar as part of the preparations for the Asia Mission Conference in February 2017, in Yangon, Myanmar.
- The General Secretary visited the headquarters of the Convention of the Philippines Baptist Churches (CPBC) on 21 March 2017 in Iloilo, Philippines.
- The General Secretary visited the headquarters of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and met with the NCCP General Secretary and staff in March 2017, in Manila, Philippines.
- The General Secretary visited the National Council of Churches in Korea and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) on 24 March 2017 in Seoul, Korea.
- The General Secretary attended the Indonesian Christian Mission Conference in April 2017 in Manado, Indonesia.
- The General Secretary delivered the opening address at

the General Assembly of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in September 2017, in Kerala, India.

- The General Secretary attended the General Assembly of the Church of North India in October 2017 in New Delhi, India.
- The General Secretary attended the commemoration of the CCA's Diamond Jubilee organised by the National Christian Council in Sri Lanka (NCCSL) in December 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2018



CCA General Secretary address the International Conference of the 30th Anniversary of the '88 Declaration' in Seoul, South Korea

- The General Secretary attended and addressed the International Conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the "88 Declaration" organised by the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) in March 2018, in Seoul, Korea.
- The General Secretary visited the Kampuchea Christian Council in May 2018 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- The General Secretary attended the Asian Interreligious Leaders' Summit on Religion for Peace, organised by the Foreign Affairs of the Federal Government of Germany in June 2018 in Berlin, Germany.
- The General Secretary attended the General Assembly of

the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in August 2018, in Kerala, India.

- The General Secretary attended the Senate of Serampore Bicentenary International Consultation, in August 2018, in Kolkata, India.
- The General Secretary visited the Gereja Protestan di Indonesia bagian Barat (GPIB) in August 2018 in Indonesia.
- The General Secretary attended the Thanksgiving Service of the Centennial Commemoration of the Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (HKCCCC) in September 2018 in Hong Kong.
- The General Secretary attended the General Assembly of the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) in October 2018, in Tokyo, Japan.
- The General Secretary attended the General Assembly of the Church of Christ in Thailand in October 2018, in Thailand.
- The General Secretary visited the Lao Evangelical Church in December 2018 in Vientiane, Laos.

2019

- The General Secretary met with the Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Indonesia on 28 January 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The General Secretary met with the leaders of national Islamic organisations in Indonesia, namely the Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah on 28 January 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The General Secretary met with the leadership of CCA member churches in Indonesia and addressed the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) Central Committee meeting on 29 January 2019 in Bogor, Indonesia.
- The General Secretary visited the headquarters of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) on 31 January 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- CCA staff Ms Rosiana Purnomo attended the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) Interfaith Platform Meeting from 11–12 March 2019 in

Bangkok, Thailand.

- CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended the Graduation ceremony of the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College in Maelah Refugee Camp on 24 March 2019 in Maesot, Thailand.
- CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended the Church and Society Conference of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) from 28–31 March 2019, in Manado, Indonesia.
- The General Secretary organised the CCA Assembly planning meeting with CCA member church leaders and the national council in India from 10–12 April 2019 in New Delhi, India.
- The General Secretary visited Sri Lankan member churches and the National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka immediately after the Easter day tragedy from 21–23 April 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The General Secretary, CCA staff Sunila Ammar, and CCA Programme Committee Chairperson Rev. Kyrie Kim met with officials of the United Nations Women Asia-Pacific region in May 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The General Secretary and CCA staff Sunila Ammar attended the Asia Regional Committee meeting of the CoNGO-UN in May 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.



General Secretary and other CCA staff with church leaders in Taiwan

- The General Secretary and CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon, Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia, and Rosiana Purnomo met with

CCA member churches and council in Taiwan from 3–4 June 2019 in Taipei and Hsinchu, Taiwan.

- CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification, and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula (EKF) from 10–12 July 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The General Secretary addressed the opening session of the 2nd Mission Conference of the International Myanmar Baptist Fellowship on 25 September 2019 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- The General Secretary visited the Rohingya refugee camps from 9–10 October 2019 in Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh.
- The General Secretary visited the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB), the Church of Bangladesh, and the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha on 11 October 2019 in Bangladesh.
- CCA staff Rosiana Purnomo and Jay Roy Tipayan attended the 17th General Assembly of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) from 8–13 November 2019 in Waingapu, Indonesia.

2020

- The General Secretary attended a Consultation hosted by His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia on ‘Towards a More Responsive and Inclusive Ecumenical Vision’ from 31 January–2 February 2020 in Antelias, Lebanon.
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI)’s 70th Anniversary on 25 May 2020 (online).
- CCA staff Ms Rosiana Purnomo gave a panel address at a webinar hosted by Arigatou International on ‘How Faith-Inspired Organisations in Asia are Supporting, Protecting, and Empowering Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic’ on 15 June 2020 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the

Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT)'s General Assembly on 16 June 2020 (online).

- CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended a webinar on 'Human Rights, Ethics, and Climate Change' on 17 June 2020 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the General Assembly of the Gereja Kristen Protestan di Bali (GKPB) on 4 August 2020 (online).
- The General Secretary attended the International Ecumenical Convocation on the Defence of Human Rights in the Philippines, organised by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines on 17 September 2020 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 105th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) on 22–23 September 2020 (online).
- CCA staff Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia attended the HIV Interfaith Conference on 'Resilience and Renewal: Faith in the HIV Response' on 23–24 September 2020 (online).
- CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended a webinar on 'Introducing Asian Women's Theological Network' hosted by PANAAWTM (Pacific, Asian, North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry) on 24 October 2020 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 8th General Assembly of the Igreja Protestante Iha Timor Lorosa'e (IPTL) on 28 October 2020 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)'s international virtual solidarity forum 'Cry Out! Rescue Us, O God!' on 17 November 2020 (online).
- CCA staff Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia delivered a presentation during the World AIDS Day webinar hosted by the School of Divinity, Siliman University and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) on 2 December 2020 (online).

- The General Secretary gave a panel presentation during the webinar on 'Pastoral Care for Children in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic' organised by the Indonesian Pastoral Association on 4 December 2020 (online).

2021

- CCA staff Ruth Mathen attended a webinar series organised by the Faith and Belief Forum UK on topics such as 'Relating FoRB to multiple aspects of identity' on 9 February, 'Promoting FoRB for all at the local levels' on 25 February, 'FoRB in Practice: Ways of working together well' on 9 March 2021 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 66th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan on 22 April 2021 (online).
- CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended a webinar series on 'Asian and Asian American Feminist Theologies' hosted by the Candler Foundry of Emory University and the PANAAWTM (Pacific, Asian, and North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry) on 19 May, 26 May, 2 June, 9 June, and 16 June 2021 (online).
- CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended an International Conference on 'Teaching Ecumenism in the context of World Christianity' from 2–4 June 2021 (online).
- CCA staff Chalvin Kores Tehuayo attended a Statelessness Summer Course organised by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Netherlands, from 12–23 July 2021 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 75th Anniversary of the Church of Jesus Christ in Indonesia on 26 July 2021 (online).
- The General Secretary and CCA staff had receptions with the President, UAICC Acting Chair, and General Secretary of the Uniting Church in Australia on 28 July 2021 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 106th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) on 28 September 2021 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 25th

General Assembly of the Toraja Church in Indonesia on 18 October 2021 (online).

- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 20th General Assembly of the Protestant Church in the Western Part of Indonesia (GPIB) on 29 October 2021 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the 5th Annual Assembly of the Evangelical Church in Halmahera (GMIH) on 14 November 2021 (online).
- The General Secretary presented greetings at the Thanksgiving Service for the leadership of LAC of the 50th Anniversary of the CCI on 4 November 2021 (online).
- The CCA General Secretary presented greetings at the centenary of the International Missionary Council on 17 November 2021 (online).
- The CCA General Secretary presented greetings at the 70th General Assembly of the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) on 22 November 2021 (online).

2022

- The General Secretary received recognition from the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Jose Maria Vasconcelos, for the work of solidarity and accompaniment extended by the CCA and WCC to the people of Timor Leste over the years in their struggle for the right to self-determination, during a special meeting on 22 September 2022 in Dili, Timor Leste.



CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara receives gifts from the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic Timor Leste, Jose Maria Vasconcelos

FROM JAKARTA TO KOTTAYAM

- The General Secretary and CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended the Global Christian Forum's Asia Regional Consultation from 14–17 September 2022 in Seoul, South Korea.



CCA General Secretary with ecumenical leaders in Korea during a special function organised by the National Council of Churches in Korea

- The General Secretary and CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon attended a special function organised by the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) in collaboration with CCA member churches on 17 October 2022 in Seoul, South Korea. The CCA was commended for its role in solidarity and accompaniment for peace and reconciliation in the Korean peninsula. The CCA felicitated former ecumenical leaders from Korea who had provided decades-long services in the CCA and WCC, namely two former CCA General Secretaries, Dr Sang Jung Park and Dr Ahn Jae Woong, and former WCC Asia Secretary, Prof. Dr Park Kyung Seo.
- The General Secretary extended greetings at the Biennial General Assembly and congratulated the newly elected leaders of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) on 21 October 2022 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- The General Secretary and CCA staff Arceli P. Bile visited the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and CCA member churches in the Philippines from 21–25 November 2022 and held discussions on contemporary challenges of human rights violations, COVID-19 and the new normal, and future programmatic work of the CCA. The member churches that the CCA representatives visited



*CCA General Secretary with church and ecumenical leaders
in the Philippines*

included the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), the United Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church in the Philippines, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and the United Evangelical Church of Christ in the Philippines.

- The General Secretary attended the opening of the 6th Asian Christian Life-Giving Agricultural Forum and delivered the keynote address on ‘Sustainability of Food Security is for Safeguarding the Right to Food and Right to Life’ on 22 November 2022 in Laguna, Philippines.
- CCA staff Ruth Mathen presented a paper on ‘Synodality in Action in the Christian Conference of Asia’ at an academic conference by the Pro Oriente Foundation and the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas organised from 23–26 November in Rome, Italy.
- The General Secretary felicitated and honoured former CCA President and nonagenarian the Rt. Revd. Bishop Kenneth M. Fernando from the Church of Ceylon. Bishop Fernando was the CCA President from 1995–2000. Also present was Ms Chitra Fernando, wife of Bishop Fernando, who herself had served as CCA President from 1977–1981. The special felicitation was held at the headquarters of the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 7 December 2022.

2023

- CCA Executive Committee members met with church and ecumenical leaders in Bangladesh for a fellowship meeting at the headquarters of the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB) on 3 March 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- CCA Executive Committee member Ms Nirmala Gurung (Nepal) presented greetings on behalf of the General Secretary at the 29th General Assembly of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), held from 21–24 April 2023 in Hyderabad, India.
- The General Secretary extended congratulatory messages and greetings on the occasion of the enthronement of the Philippines Independent Church's (IFI) 14th Obispo Maximo, His Beatitude Joel O. Porlares on 29 June 2023 in Manila, Philippines.

Visits of Church Leaders and Ecumenical Partners to CCA Headquarters

The following representatives from the CCA member constituencies as well as ecumenical partners were welcomed to the CCA headquarters over the last eight years.

2016

- A two-member delegation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF) visited the CCA on 3 February 2016. They examined ecumenical and ecclesial conditions in various Asian countries, and explored potential future partnerships.
- Elder Kim Soon-Mi, Executive Board member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) visited on 19 January 2016.
- Southeast Asia-based representatives of the Mennonite Central Committee, USA, visited the CCA on 9 February 2016 and discussed peace and reconciliation programmes in Asia.
- The Regional Liaison Secretaries for Southeast Asia of the Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA) visited the CCA

on 12 February 2016 and held detailed discussions on the CCA's post-Assembly programme plans.

- Archbishop Felix Machado, Chairperson, and Fr. William LaRousse, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) visited the CCA on 15 February 2016 for a detailed discussion on future programmes and the setting up of the new Asian Ecumenical Committee.
- Ten students from the Dure Church of the Presbyterian Church of Korea visited the CCA on 2 March 2016.
- Asia Regional Director and Southeast Asia Regional Secretary of the Church of Sweden visited the CCA on 11 March 2016.
- A group of Korean theological students and professors from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Korea visited the CCA on 16 April 2016.
- The General Secretary and other representatives of the Korean Christian Forum on Life-Giving Agriculture visited CCA on 2 May 2016.
- Twelve women representatives of the Myanmar Council of Churches visited the CCA on 12 October 2016 and had discussions with CCA's women leadership development programme staff.

2017

- Members of the Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, visited the CCA on 11 January 2017.
- The General Secretary of the Association of Christian Institutes for Social Concerns in Asia (ACISCA) visited the CCA on 21 February 2017.
- A nine-member delegation of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) visited the CCA on 4 September 2017.

2018

- Twenty-five students and teachers from the Madras Christian College, India.
- Twenty young people from the Jeonju Shin-II Church of the

Presbyterian Church of Korea.

- Eight members from YMCA-Korea led by Rev. Dr Ahn Jae Woong, former CCA General Secretary.
- Three representatives from the Lutheran Church in Australia led by Bishop John Henderson.
- Dr Wong Wai-Yin Christina from the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Hong Kong.
- Representatives of the USAID Regional Office in Bangkok.
- Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Dr Johan Hasselgren, Church of Sweden.
- Rev. Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in the USA (NCCUSA).
- Dr Daniel Buda and Dr Ani Ghazaryan-Drissi from the World Council of Churches.

2019

- Students of Yonsei United Graduate School of Theology on 7 January 2019.
- Cambodian church leaders on 10 January 2019.
- Rev. Mienda Uriarte, Asia Coordinator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) World Mission, on 26 January 2019.
- Executive Committee of the Association of Christian Institutes for Social Concerns in Asia (ACISCA) on 19–20 March 2019.
- Executive Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) on 8 April 2019.
- Students and staff member Rev. Dr Tobias Brandner from the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 20 May 2019.
- Rev. Martin Krieg from the Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW) on 2 August 2019.
- Mr Ajit Hazra from World Vision International on 4 October 2019.

2022

- The General Secretary and CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon and Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia received a delegation of the Presbyterian Church in Korea (PCK) headed by its newly

elected Moderator, Rev. Dr Soon Chang Lee, who visited the CCA on 27 October 2022.

- The General Secretary felicitated Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang from the Gereja Toraja in Indonesia, upon her election as the Asia President of the World Council of Churches (WCC) at its 11th General Assembly in Germany. Rev. Dr Hutabarat-Lebang is also the former CCA General Secretary, serving from 2010–2015.

2023

- Representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Director for Asia Rev. Dr Y. Franklin Ishida and Programme Director Rev. Teresita C. Valeriano visited the CCA on 19 January 2023.
- A twelve-member team from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) offices in Laos, and their partners, visited the CCA on 27 February 2023.
- A team of twenty-one students and faculty members of Chung Chi College's Divinity School in Hong Kong visited the CCA on 8 May 2023.
- Kerk in Actie Director Jurjen de Groot, Operational Manager Pepijin Trapman, and Programme Officer Adriana de Fitjer of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands in Action visited the CCA on 20 June 2023.
- The Asian Migrant Centre Director Dr Reiko Harima and Chairperson Rev. Hans Lutz visited the CCA on 28 June 2023.

Relations with Ecumenical Partners

Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC)

Nine members of the Executive Committee of ACWC visited the CCA headquarters on 8 April 2019. They discussed the further direction of the ecumenical movement in Asia with CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara.

Association of the Christian Institutes for Social Concerns in Asia (ACISCA)

The ACISCA is a region-wide association of Christian lay groups, institutes, and social concerns centres, supported by CCA its founding in 1970. In February 2017, the CCA General Secretary delivered a keynote address at the ACISCA Assembly in Bangkok. The ACISCA Executive Committee met in March 2019 at the CCA Headquarters to discuss revitalising activities and enhancing ecumenical solidarity with the CCA. Future programmes, staff capacity-building, and joint ecumenical initiatives were discussed, culminating in plans to commemorate ACISCA's Golden Jubilee during the 15th CCA General Assembly in 2020, celebrating its historical legacy and showcasing current work. ACISCA comprises fifty-five lay leadership training institutes and programme centres across Asia.

Association for Theological Education in South-East Asia (ATESEA)

The CCA General Secretary received an invitation to participate in the General Assembly of the Association for Theological Education in South-East Asia (ATESEA), which took place from 20–22 March 2017 at the Central Philippine University in Iloilo, Philippines. ATESEA, established in 1957 with sixteen theological schools, has now grown to include ninety-three theological institutions from various countries and regions in Southeast and East Asia.

Bread for the World (BfdW)

The General Secretary met with the Asia Team of Bread for the World (BfdW) in October 2017.

In April 2019, CCA staff Ronald Lalthanmawia and Jay Roy Tipayan attended a training programme organised by BfdW in Hong Kong. A few weeks later, Ms Kathrin Theuer from BfdW Germany visited the CCA to discuss supported activities, specifically the ATCHAA programme, financial audit requirements, and programme plans.

A new proposal for CCA covering three years from 2020 to 2022 was developed and submitted in June 2019.

Global Mission of United Methodist Church (UMC)

The United Methodist Church's (UMC) Global Mission established its Asia Regional Office in Seoul, South Korea, and held a dedication service on 23 March 2017. The event was attended by numerous ecumenical and ecclesiastical leaders, as well as UMC's mission partners from different Asian countries. Dr Mathews George Chunakara, the CCA General Secretary, represented the organisation at the ceremony.

Evangelische Mission Weltweit

The CCA General Secretary met the Asia team of the Evangelische Mission Weltweit (EMW) in February 2017, in Hanover, Germany.

The CCA and the EMW had a virtual meeting on 7 December 2021. Rev. Dr Eckhard Zemmrich and Constanze Ennen from EMW, and Dr Mathews George Chunakara, Rev. Grace Moon, and Rosiana Purnomo from CCA attended the meeting. The recent situation in Asia, CCA's activities during the pandemic time, and the future partnership between EMW and CCA were discussed at the meeting.

On 5 September 2022, the CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara and CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon and Arceli Bile met with EMW representatives in Germany.

Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland

Representatives from the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), Rev. Frank Kopania, the Executive Director for Global Ministries, Rev. Ute Hedrich, Executive Secretary for the Middle and Far East, Australia, and Pacific, and Rev. Carsten Körber visited the CCA Office in Chiang Mai on 24 February 2022 for a meeting with CCA staff. Information regarding ongoing and planned programmes and programmatic directions was shared.

Foundation for Theological Education in South-East Asia (FTESEA)

The CCA and the FTESEA had a virtual meeting on 22 October 2021 to discuss the project of developing the digital library of CCA's theological resources and historical documents and the coordination of theological education and training in Asia in the future. Dr Dorcas Gordon, Dr David Esterline, and Dr Henry Wilson from the FTESEA, and Dr Mathews George and Rev. Grace Moon from CCA attended the meeting.

International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC)

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC), initiated in 1956, and linked to the CCA during its initial years, is a worldwide ecumenical fellowship of prayer of Christian women for justice, peace, and reconciliation. The 38th, 39th, and 40th annual meetings of the International Committee for the FLC (ICFLC) were held in Bangkok (2018), Accra (2019), and online (2020) respectively. In April 2021, an online meeting was held to amend the ICFLC's constitution and discuss ongoing projects. The 41st and 42nd annual meetings (2021, 2022) were also conducted online, addressing topics such as grant allocations and electing new FLC leadership. Rev. Grace Moon attends to the FLC on behalf of the CCA.

Kerk in Actie

The General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara and CCA staff Rev. Grace Moon and Arceli Bile met with Kerk in Actie-ICCO representatives on 6 September 2022 in Germany.

Kerk in Actie Director Jurjen de Groot, Operational Manager Pepijin Trapman, and Programme Officer Adriana de Fitjer of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands in Action visited the CCA on 20 June 2023 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Mission 21

The CCA General Secretary met with the Director and Asia Team of Mission 21 at the WCC headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, in

February 2017. In 2018, Ms Kathrin Gfeller and the Programme Coordinators of the Mission 21 Asia Team visited the CCA office.

CCA staff participated in a five-day workshop on good governance in Bangkok, Thailand in 2019, organised by Mission 21. The workshop focused on aspects such as human resource development, systems development, organisational development, and network development, aiming to enhance capacity, sustainability, and professionalism.

Ms Rosiana Purnomo, CCA staff, attended Mission 21's workshop on Good Governance in Makassar, Indonesia, from 6–10 January 2020.

CCA staff participated in Mission 21's training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) in July 2021. The training aimed to raise awareness and establish preventive mechanisms in Mission 21's partner organisations, covering topics like theological perspectives, leadership culture, policies and procedures, and complaints handling.

Mission 21 hosted a thanksgiving dinner meeting on 7 September 2022 in Germany to share updates and discuss ecumenical partnerships. It was also an opportunity for CCA to thank its partner organisation for its longstanding support.

In 2023, CCA staff Yuliana Benu and John Paul Devakumar attended a Mission 21 workshop on good governance from 16–20 January 2023 in Bali, Indonesia.

United Church of Canada

The CCA and the United Church of Canada (UCC) had a virtual Consultation on 8 June 2021 to discuss the ongoing and upcoming programme plans for 2021 and to share updated news on the present situation in Asia under the COVID-19 pandemic. Patti Talbot and Josefina Forcadilla from the UCC and Dr Mathews George Chunakara, Rev. Grace Moon, Jay Roy Tipayan, and Ruth Mathen from CCA attended the meeting.

Relations with the World Council of Churches

The CCA continues to maintain strong and mutually enriching partnerships with the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The CCA General Secretary attended meetings of the WCC Central Committee since 2016 as an Advisor. In November 2016, the CCA General Secretary also attended the WCC Executive Committee meeting in China as a special invitee.

The CCA General Secretary served as a member of the working group appointed by the WCC General Secretary to develop the Guidelines for WCC and REO Relations. The Guidelines are now finalised and have been adopted formally at a meeting of REO General Secretaries and WCC General Secretaries together with senior staff leadership of WCC. The General Secretary has been a part of annual WCC-REO meetings (in-person and online) since 2016.



WCC-PJP International Reference Group Meeting in March 2019 at the CCA Headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand

The CCA hosted the International Reference Group meeting of the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP) as well as the



Participants of the WCC-PJP International Reference Group Meeting: Asia Focus 2019

inauguration of the PJP Asia Focus 2019, which was held from 3–7 March 2019 at CCA headquarters, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The PJP focus for 2019 was Asia and this meeting aimed to reflect on reports on the situations in Asia through the lens of the pilgrimage’s global thematic focus on racism. An interreligious fellowship gathering and dinner reception were organised in conjunction with the PJP meeting. Representatives of seven religious communities in Chiang Mai attended and offered prayers of peace.



Interreligious fellowship gathering organised in conjunction with the WCC-PJP International Reference Group Meeting

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The CCA and WCC, as per discussions and agreements, jointly organised several programmes together such as the PJP Asia Solidarity Team Visits to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Myanmar-Thailand border; an International Consultation on Statelessness and Human Trafficking in Asia; an International Consultation on Child Rights Protection and Advocacy to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation; the Eco-School on Water, Food, and Climate Justice; International Consultation on Evangelism and Missional Witness in a Multi-Religious Asia; and International Consultations on Ecumenical Diakonia and Development. WCC staff have also served as resource persons for several of the CCA's programmes related to human rights, HIV and AIDS, and health and healing. Similarly, the WCC has included CCA staff as resource persons and participants in related programmes.

The CCA General Secretary attended the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace International Reference Group Meeting in Fiji from 19–22 January 2020. In the same year, the CCA General Secretary attended an online meeting for the WCC and Regional Ecumenical Organisations (REOs) on 26 March 2020. Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia from the CCA attended the WCC Consultative Meetings of Ecumenical Global Health Providers and Networks on COVID-19 on 11 May, 19 June, 28 July, 12 October, and 30 November 2020. Dr Lalthanmawia, in 2020, also attended the WCC-EHAIA International Reference Group and WCC-EAA HIV Strategy Group from 25–29 May 2020. Rev. Grace Moon and Ms Sunila Ammar from the CCA attended the online WCC Pre-Assembly Planning Meeting on 'Just Community of Women and Men' on 29 June 2020. Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia participated in the WCC's World AIDS Day Prayer Service on 1 December 2020.

In 2021, the CCA General Secretary and staff attended the following meetings of the WCC: Preparatory meeting of WCC Pre-Assembly of Women and Men on 22 January, 2 April, and 29 June; WCC-

REO Monthly Communication Meeting on 3 February, 3 March, 6 April, 3 May, 2 June, 22 June, and 7 July; Preparatory Meeting for WCC Assembly's Ecumenical Conversations on Gender Justice on 7 April, 6 May, 25 June, and 9 December; speaker at WCC's webinar on 'COVID-19 Vaccination and Stateless People' on 15 March; speaker at WCC's webinar on 'Migration and HIV in the context of COVID-19: The role of faith leaders and communities' on 8 April; meeting of WCC Asia Regional Ecumenical Officers on 20 April; speaker at WCC workshop on health and healing on 10 June; Moderator at WCC-LWF webinar on 'Stop the Flow: Let's End Human Trafficking' on 30 July; participant at WCC World AIDS Day online service on 1 December.

In 2022, the CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara and other CCA staff members participated in the online WCC Asia Pre-Assembly meeting on 23 August. The 11th Assembly of the WCC took place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from 31 August to 8 September 2022. The Assembly, held every eight years, is the highest governing body of the WCC and serves as a platform for member churches to strengthen their commitment to visible unity and common witness. CCA staff members attended the Assembly in various roles, including as voting delegates, co-opted staff, resource persons, Assembly stewards, and Assembly participants. CCA also conducted two workshops on 'Child Rights Protection in Asia' and 'Ending Statelessness to Uphold Every Human's Dignity' at the WCC Assembly.

In 2023, the CCA General Secretary was elected as the Moderator of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs by the WCC Central Committee.

Relations with Ecclesiastical and Confessional Bodies

Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA)

The CCA continued to reach out to the Asia Evangelical Alliance and the Pentecostal family. The AEA was invited to attend the

Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU)–VII. Representatives from National Evangelical Alliances were invited from time to time as resource persons for the CCA’s programmes, such as those relating to the freedom of religion and belief.

Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC)

The CCA and the FABC have had a long and fruitful association which was further strengthened over the last eight years. The CCA and FABC collaborated on strengthening their common witness and organised the seventh meeting of the joint Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU) in July 2016. The AMCU–VII, held in Medan, Indonesia, focused on ‘Crisis of Climate Change in our Common Home’ and discussed Christian ethical perspectives, critiques on consumerism and irresponsible development, environmental degradation, and global warming. Participants from CCA, FABC, and AEA explored joint actions to address the challenges of climate change in Asia, referencing Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home”.



CCA General Secretary addresses the Plenary Assembly of the FABC in 2016, in Colombo, Sri Lanka

The CCA General Secretary participated in the 11th Quadrennial Plenary Assembly of the FABC in Sri Lanka from 29 November to 4 December 2016, attended by over 140 cardinals, archbishops, and bishops from forty countries. The CCA General Secretary

expressed the longstanding bond between FABC and CCA and their shared ecumenical journey for the past twenty years, focusing on the mutual witness of the Gospel and Christian unity. The bishops discussed the challenges faced by Asian families and the role of the domestic Church of the poor.

CCA collaborated with FABC in 2017 in the preparation for the Asia Mission Conference (AMC) and for the Asia Mission Statement. At the preparatory meeting for the Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–IX in Chiang Mai in November 2018, the CATS Advisory Committee comprising also of FABC representatives was in attendance. FABC representatives were also in attendance at the CATS–IX in Medan, Indonesia, in August 2019. The FABC was also present at the CATS–X Advisory Committee meeting which was held online in April 2021. At the Regional Consultation on Family Life and Family Values: Transitions from Tradition to Modernity, and at the International Consultation on Good Governance for Theological Institutions in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in November 2022, the CCA invited speakers from the FABC.

International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) – Pax Romana

Five representatives from the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) – Pax Romana visited the CCA Headquarters in July 2023 to discuss reviving ecumenical collaboration and networks in the Asia-Pacific region.

Advocacy and Engagement at the United Nations

The CCA has been accredited by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2003. The special consultative status enables CCA to facilitate the advocacy of Asian churches in various areas of their concerns through regional and international platforms such as UN Human Rights Council sessions, Universal Periodic Reviews of the UNHRC, UN General Assembly, Security Council, UNESCAP, UNEP, UNDP.

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In 2016, a three-member delegation of the CCA was accredited to participate in the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW) held at the United Nations Headquarters from 14–24 March 2016 in New York, USA.

The CCA General Secretary attended and spoke at the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) in consultative relations with the United Nations Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) meeting, which was held in Bangkok at the Siam University in conjunction with the 73rd session of the UN ECOSOC on 15–16 May 2017.

A seven-member delegation of CCA representatives from Pakistan and other Asian countries participated in the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session on Pakistan held in Geneva, Switzerland from 12–17 November 2017.

The CCA General Secretary attended and spoke at the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) in consultative relations with the United Nations Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) meeting, which was held in Bangkok at the Siam University on 8–9 May 2018.

In 2019, the CCA General Secretary attended and spoke at the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) which was held in conjunction with the UN Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP) meeting, and was held in Bangkok at the Siam University on 29–30 May 2019. CCA staff Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia was part of the WCC's delegation to the 72nd World Health Assembly of the World Health Organisation held from 20–28 May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The CCA and the WCC jointly organised an Asia



*Delegation of the CCA to the UN-CSW 60 in March 2016, in New York, USA
From L-R: Ms Sunila Ammar,
Mr Sunil Babu Shrestha,
and Rev. Kyrie Kim*

Regional Workshop on the UN Human Rights System and Mechanisms: Application for Advocacy from 23–26 May 2019 at the CCA headquarters. On 30 May 2019, the General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara, CCA Programme Committee Chairperson Rev. Kyrie Kim, and CCA staff Ms Sunila Ammar, visited the UN Women Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand and shared the work of the EWA AV programme. Earlier in the year, on 7–8 February 2019, CCA staff Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia and Jay Roy Tipayan met with UNAIDS Regional FBOs Coordinator Stela Sacaliuc, UNAIDS Regional Office Programme Adviser Dr Salil Panakadan, and UNICEF HIV Specialist Shirley Mark Prabhu at the UNAIDS and UNICEF Regional Offices in Bangkok, Thailand.

On 17 June 2020, a meeting with the UN Women’s Desk was initiated as a follow-up of the EWA AV webinar on ‘The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Women’. A virtual discussion took place between UN Women Consultant Carly Teng, and CCA staff Sunila Ammar and Rosiana Purnomo.

An eight-member delegation representing the CCA participated in the 65th Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW-65) from 15–26 March 2021, which was held online. The priority theme of CSW-65 was “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. The deliberations helped to analyse and discuss the theme in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CCA also submitted a written statement which was published as part of the documentation for the 2021 ECOSOC High-Level Segment (HLS), which convened around the theme ‘Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’. The statement, which focused on SDG 3 on ‘good health and well-being’, was a unique opportunity for the CCA to contribute to issues of critical concern for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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The CCA submitted a written statement which was published as part of the documentation for the 67th Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW-67) on the priority theme “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”.

Since 2016, the CCA has sought the expertise of over fifty staff members from different UN bodies in Asia as resource persons for several programmes primarily under the Building Peace and Moving Beyond Conflicts (BP) and the Prophetic Diakonia and Advocacy (PD) departments.

Ecumenical Responses to Emerging Issues in Solidarity

The CCA over the years has attempted to the best of its capacities to respond to emerging Asian issues and accompanied its member churches and councils in conflict situations or needed support on specific occasions. The CCA has also released several public statements on international observance days, pastoral letters, and messages. A separate volume of such statements, messages, and letters from 2015 to 2023 has been published in conjunction with the 15th CCA General Assembly.

Diamond Jubilee of CCA



Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the CCA in Yangon, Myanmar. Participants included 600 delegates to the AMC and over 6,000 local church members

The Diamond Jubilee of the CCA was a wonderful occasion to reflect on the CCA's history since 1957, and an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the ecumenical mission in Asia and continue our prophetic witness. Organised in conjunction with the Asia Mission Conference on 15 October 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar, the 60th Diamond Jubilee and commemorative public meeting were attended by over 6,000 people, including 600 AMC delegates. Bishop Dr Soritua Nababan, a participant of the first CCA General Assembly in 1957, delivered a homily on Acts 1:8. CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara spoke about the organisation's resilience and commitment over 60 years. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, WCC General Secretary, delivered the Diamond Jubilee message. Archbishop Felix Anthony Machado and Dr Ja Bu delivered greetings on behalf of the FABC and the Myanmar Council of Churches respectively. The celebration included cultural presentations from diverse ethnic groups.

The National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka (NCCSL) and its member churches celebrated the CCA's 60th anniversary with a thanksgiving service in Colombo, attended by around 250 church representatives, theological students, and educators from theological institutions. They honoured the CCA General Secretary and other Sri Lankan leaders for their contributions to the ecumenical movement.

General Assembly Preparations

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of the CCA and normally meets every five years. It is a special event when representatives of the CCA's member churches and councils as well as ecumenical partner organisations come together for a celebration of faith and to reaffirm the unity of the fellowship in the Asian ecumenical movement.

The General Assembly celebrates the unity of the churches in Asia in worship, study, and action. It provides the opportunity for the representatives of the CCA members to express the common vision of the churches for the direction and mission of the CCA. The General Assembly reviews and assesses the work carried

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out by the CCA through its programmes for the past years. As the supreme decision-making representative gathering of its member churches and councils, the General Assembly enunciates general directions and a common vision for the future mission and programmes of the CCA. The General Assembly elects the leadership of the CCA for the upcoming years. This includes the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, and seventeen members of the Executive Committee.

In 2019, the CCA Executive Committee decided to hold the 15th CCA General Assembly from 3–7 September 2020 in Kovalam, Kerala, India. An Assembly Worship Preparatory Committee met in early 2020 to finalise worship plans, liturgical resources, and selected biblical portions for the General Assembly, that were representative of Asia's diverse traditions. In that same week, specially invited Asian theologians from various theological institutions and churches came together to discuss and deliberate on the proposed Assembly theme and sub-themes. The objective was to create theological and Bible study resources for the Assembly, resulting in proposals for thematic plenary sessions and identifying pressing Asian issues to be addressed. The Local Arrangements Committee for the CCA General Assembly met in Thiruvananthapuram, India, to discuss logistics and make preparations for the Assembly, attended by approximately twenty delegates from the CCA member churches in South India and a representative from NCCI.

However, the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic derailed the preparations and arrangements. In 2021, the CCA Executive Committee considered either Indonesia or Thailand as the venues for the General Assembly, given the dire pandemic situation in India, and authorised the General Secretary to make the necessary enquiries. In 2022, the CCA Executive Committee revisited its original plan of holding the Assembly in Kerala. The General Secretary had been in consultation with the National Council of Churches in India and with five of the CCA member churches in Kerala, who had extended their support to host the Assembly in the historic city of Kottayam, in Kerala.

The 15th CCA General Assembly will be held from 27 September to 4 October 2023 in Kottayam, an important centre of the St Thomas Christians in India, a community that traces its origins to St Thomas the Apostle, who is believed to have visited Kerala in 52 CE and established churches. Kottayam was also a centre of the Church Mission Society which initiated pioneering missionary activities from 1816, such as the promotion of education among oppressed peoples, leading to a social renaissance in the region.

The theme and sub-themes of the 15th CCA General Assembly were proposed by the Assembly Planning Committee and had been approved by the Executive Committee in 2019. The main theme is 'God, Renew Us in Your Spirit and Restore the Creation'. The three sub-themes are 'Renewal and Restoration of Creation: Affirming the Will of God', 'Renewal and Restoration of Creation: Dwelling in Harmony', and, 'Renewal and Restoration of Creation: Attaining Life in its Fullness'.

In 2022 and 2023, multiple meetings of the Assembly Local Host Committee, Assembly Worship Committee, and Theological Consultative Team were held in Kottayam and Kochi, India. Representatives from five CCA member churches formed sub-committees for different aspects of the General Assembly, and international members of the Assembly Worship Committee met with local worship leaders. Senior theologians developed Bible study resources and produced an Assembly Theme study document. The General Secretary and CCA staff visited Kerala periodically for necessary Assembly preparations.

Income Development and Finance

Considering the vast operational geographical area of the CCA (from Iran in West Asia to Japan in East Asia; Nepal in the North of Asia to New Zealand in the South), the number of member churches and councils, and the number of issues, concerns, and themes that have to be addressed as part of ecumenical responses, the CCA is now operating with very limited financial resources. Due to drastic reductions in staff and programme costs, as well as the relocation of the office to Chiang Mai from

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Hong Kong, staff costs and administrative costs have been reduced during the past years to keep a balanced budget.

This approach has not been helpful for the CCA as a regional ecumenical organisation (REO), as this has affected the quality of programmes and activities of the CCA, as well as the efficiency and motivation of the staff. The number of staff who can organise programmes in an effective way and raise the profile of the CCA by way of addressing emerging Asian issues has been much lower than during the period when the CCA was based in Hong Kong or at the beginning of the period when the CCA moved to Chiang Mai. The Executive Committee meeting of the CCA held in October 2015 discussed some of these issues and concerns. The Executive Committee felt that income generation from member churches and councils in Asia should be a priority for the CCA in the coming years.

The 14th General Assembly mandated the new Executive Committee to decide on policies related to membership contribution, income development, and sharing of programme costs by member churches and councils and introducing a travel subsidy policy for Committee members from financially well-off CCA member constituencies whenever they attend Committee meetings and programmes. In a way, this is part of CCA's member churches and councils' commitment to ensuring a greater sense of ownership and sharing of financial resources for member participation in CCA committees and programmes.

The Executive Committee of the CCA that met from 13–16 October 2015 adopted a new policy for reimbursement of travel subsidies for participation in CCA governing and advisory bodies. It was also decided that for the purpose of reimbursement eligibility, at least the agreed annual membership contribution of at least USD 1,000 must have been paid. The General Secretary has written letters and reached out to member churches requesting increased membership contributions. Several member churches and councils have paid their membership contributions at the increased levels and several others have promised to increase membership contributions.

It was heartening to note that some Asian churches were going beyond expectations in providing financial support to CCA and taking financial ownership of some of CCA's programmes. In 2015, Huria Kristen Batak Protestan, a member church of the CCA in Indonesia, mobilised financial resources to host the 14th General Assembly of the CCA for which they generated USD 281,000 from local churches. The same church hosted two events of the CCA in July 2016 – a meeting of the Executive Committee of the CCA and a CCA-FABC Consultation of the Asian Movement for Christian Unity with fifty participants. In 2018, the Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa (GMIM), a member church of the CCA in Indonesia, raised USD 300,000 to locally host the Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA) in Manado, Indonesia. In 2019, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), a CCA member church, contributed over USD 70,000 to the Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (AEWA) in Hsinchu, Taiwan. In the same year, it was heartening to receive support from the Gereja Bethel Indonesia (GBI), a church that is not a CCA member but is indirectly affiliated with the CCA through the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI), of USD 30,000 for the Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–IX in Medan, Indonesia. For the 15th CCA General Assembly in Kottayam, India, four of the CCA member churches in Kerala, namely, the Malabar Independent Syrian Church, Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, and the Malankara Orthodox Church, have each pledged USD 18,000 towards implementation and logistics costs.

Contributions from ecumenical partners remain by far the highest source of income for the CCA. However, over the years, the amount of contribution from European ecumenical partners has been decreasing, and thus it is necessary, in the coming years, for the member churches and councils of the CCA to adopt a greater sense of ownership of the CCA and contribute in terms of financial resources for the CCA's programmes.

Communications

The CCA's electronic news releases are crucial for communications with constituencies, the ecumenical world, civil society, and other

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Christian Conference of Asia
an organ and fellowship of churches and ecumenical councils in Asia for initiating and facilitating dynamic, Christian witness and action

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CCA General Secretary Dr. Mathews George meets with the new leadership of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) - Rev. Siam Muangsak, General Secretary, Rev. Virut Koeydul, Vice Moderator, and Mr Chan Chotnantisaeed, Treasurer. The meeting was held at

MAJOR EVENTS (2015 - 2020)

- CCA DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION
The Christian Conference of Asia, founded in 1957, is celebrating its 60 years of ecumenical journey. CCA's Diamond Jubilee will be commemorated on 15 October 2017, in Yangon, Myanmar.

QUICK LINKS

- ASIA MISSION CONFERENCE
- ASIA SUNDAY
- DIAMOND JUBILEE
- FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY
- MEMBER CHURCHES
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CCA website in 2016

bodies. In 2016, the CCA website was redesigned and content rearranged to align with programmatic changes. The website's stability, flexibility, and space were improved with an exclusive server obtained in December 2015. The communications team manages the CCA's website and official social media pages, and regularly publishes news releases and updates. They work closely with web managers and developers in India. Public engagement surged during the pandemic, leading to the launch of the CCA YouTube page in 2020 and an Instagram page in 2022. In

2023, a new website was launched with an online participant management system for General Assembly registrations, and the CCA embraced paperless events in order to reduce environmental impacts. The CCA also published a number of key reports and books over the eight-year period.

Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/ChristianConferenceofAsia/)	5,712 followers, 48-56 million impressions
YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/@christianconferenceofasia4620)	387 subscribers, 17,780 views
Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/christianconferenceofasia/)	177 followers
MailChimp	6,000 subscribers
Twitter (https://twitter.com/CCA_1957)	146 followers



CCA activities on social media

Identifying Young Ecumenical Talents in Asia: Youth Internships

A key focus of the CCA is to facilitate leadership development and capacity-building of the youth of CCA's member churches and councils. The CCA's internship programme has been redesigned as a year-long leadership development training with intensive and hands-on practical guidance. Through an annual competitive

recruitment process, selections are made to identify suitable candidates. The CCA interns are fully supported by the CCA itself. In 2023, an additional intern supported by the United Methodist Church's Global Board was welcomed to the CCA team.

The internship programme is designed to provide immersive training and practical experience in programme organisation. The interns also participate in all of the CCA's programmes, join exposure visits, and interact with church and ecumenical leaders. Since Asian churches have many young people with great potential, often seen as "frozen assets" in the churches, the CCA has made diligent efforts to identify, nurture, and train talented youth as our future ecumenical leaders in Asia and the world, for the coming years.

What follows is a list of interns recruited between 2016 and 2023:

1. Ms Angela Kim (Presbyterian Church of Korea, 2016)
2. Ms Casey Faa'u'i (Methodist Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2016)
3. Ms Anam Gill (Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, 2016)
4. Mr Sankalp Sam Mathew (Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, 2016)
5. Rev. Dedi Pardosi (Huria Kristen Batak Protestan, 2016-2017)
6. Mr Jebasingh Samuvel (Church of South India, 2016-2017)
7. Ms Maureen Faumina Akeripa (Methodist Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2017)
8. Mr Christopher Daniel Sonawane (Church of North India, 2017)
9. Mr Gloria Kaloke (Methodist Church of India, 2017)
10. Ms Nant Myat Noe Aein Salome (Church of the Province of Myanmar, 2017-2019)
11. Ms Gianina Fay C. Vecino (United Church of Christ in the Philippines, 2017-2019)
12. Ms Rosiana Indah Purnomo (Gereja Isa Almasih, 2018-2019)
13. Ms Navya Dinah Saji (Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, 2018-2019)
14. Mr Chalvin Kores Tehuayo (Gereja Protestan Maluku, 2019-2021)

15. Ms Ruth Mathen (Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, 2019–2021)
16. Ms Yuliana Magdalena Benu (Gereja Masehi Injili di Timor, 2022)
17. Ms Yodinge Kithminee Chamathka Kularatne (Church of Ceylon, 2022)
18. Mr Abel Joshua Abey (Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, 2022)
19. Mr Sha Mgwe La Ah Tha Pa (Anglican Church in Myanmar, 2022–2023)
20. Mr John Paul Devakumar (Church of South India, 2022–2023)
21. Ms Hnin Wai Thi Aung (Church of the Province of Myanmar, 2023)
22. Ms Yu Ting-Chiu (Methodist Church in Taiwan, 2023)



Mission in Unity and Contextual Theology

Mission and witness are inherent to the Church's essence and being, guided by God's care and love for all creation. The call is for us to participate in God's mission of re-creating and uniting the whole of creation. Church unity is vital in carrying out God's mission effectively, as it empowers the Gospel's transformative power. Contextually relevant mission should be based on clear theological convictions, particularly concerning Christ's meaning in life. It is especially important to support new and small churches in Asian countries, nurture emerging Asian theologians, and promote ecumenism. Asian churches also face increased demands for interreligious engagements, necessitating interweaving contextual theologies and embracing ecumenical commitment.

The Mission in Unity and Contextual Theology (MU) programmatic thrust aims to strengthen mission and witness in multi-religious contexts, revitalise church unity, and support contextual theological foundations for mission in Asia. Collaboration and cooperation among churches and ecumenical actors in Asia and globally are prioritised. Several ecumenical theological initiatives are facilitated and strengthened under the MU department.

Impact at a Glance

Total programmes: 27 • Total participants: 1,975

Mission and Witness in Unity in a Multi-Religious Asia

Programmes organised: 16 • Participants: 1,539

Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)

Programmes organised: 5 • Participants: 243

Asian Women Doing Theology in the Context of Wider Ecumenism

Programmes organised: 2 • Participants: 53

Contextualisation of Theology in Asia and Ecumenical Theological Education

Programmes organised: 2 • Participants: 53

Churches' Response to Health, Healing, and Wholeness in Changing Contexts in Asia

Programmes organised: 1 • Participants: 60

Biblical-Theological Bases of Human Dignity and Human Rights

Programmes organised: 1 • Participants: 27

Mission and Witness in Unity in a Multi-Religious Area

Christianity in Asia has been influenced by Western missionary activities, creating perceptions of colonial connections and hindering the development of distinct Asian identities in the faith. To address this, the CCA focuses on mission and witness in Asia's multi-religious context, promoting church unity and relevant missiology. Collaborating with ecclesial bodies, member churches, and councils, the CCA seeks to address challenges and rediscover the identity of Asian Christianity. Asian churches must redefine their missiological priorities, fostering unity in their

witness to Christ and seeking a new paradigm for mission and witness. The CCA has tried to equip its member constituencies, foster cooperation, and engage in interfaith dialogue, articulating a new vision for ecumenically-oriented mission in Asia's pluralistic contexts.

Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU)

The Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU) originated in 1993 when the CCA and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) established the Asian Ecumenical Committee (AEC) for joint programmes. Since then, AMCU meetings have fostered ecumenical relations at various levels and emphasised the importance of visible unity in Christ. The first AMCU seminar took place in 1996 in Hong Kong, bringing together leaders, theologians, and ecumenical officers to study and promote unity among Christ's disciples in Asia.

The seventh AMCU was hosted by the CCA with the support of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestant (HKBP) in Medan, Indonesia, in July 2016, and focused on the theme 'Crisis of Climate Change in our Common Home'. Fifty participants from the CCA, FABC, and the Asian Evangelical Alliance (AEA) attended the Consultation, emphasising the urgency of encouraging Asian churches to join a diverse network, engage in educational programmes, and advocate actions to mitigate climate change.

Themes at AMCU-VII included the impact of climate change in Asia, biblical and theological reflections, eco-justice ethics, Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, advocacy for climate change mitigation, and plans for joint actions for ecological renewal and eco-justice in various Asian contexts. Participants shared local situations concerning climate change effects, including deforestation and GMOs in mainland Southeast Asia, and the impact on the poor in South Asia. Rich countries in Asia faced challenges of extreme weather conditions, floods, droughts, landslides, oil spills, and excessive energy use.

In their final analyses, participants concluded that the Church, alongside NGOs, can build awareness, mobilise collective actions, and promote lifestyle changes. The AMCU concluded with participants planting trees at Universitas HKBP Nommensen in Medan as a symbolic gesture of climate change mitigation engagement.

Asia Mission Conference

Since its founding in 1957, the CCA has played a vital role in the mission and evangelism of Asian churches, with Asia Mission Conferences (AMCs) serving as crucial events for theological and missiological reflections. Although no AMCs had been organised since 1994, the CCA decided to host the Asia Mission Conference (AMC)–2017 in response to emerging issues in Asia’s pluralistic contexts.



A preparatory meeting in Bangkok in September 2016 led to the adoption of the theme ‘Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia’ and the identification of four sub-themes. Specific plans for the AMC–2017 were mapped out through meetings with coordinators and leaders from Myanmar. A Working Group Meeting in May 2017 drafted the Asia Mission Statement.

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An Indian Missional Conversation, a pre-Asia Mission Conference event, was co-organised by the CCA, the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), the Church of North India Chotanagpur Diocese, the National Missionary Society of India (NMSI), and the India Missions Association (IMA). It brought together 100 delegates from various mission boards and organisations, church mission boards, ecumenical organisations, and regional councils. Held in August 2017, in Ranchi, India, the event aimed to reflect on the AMC theme. It was also the first time several Mission Board representatives of the NCCI, IMA, NMSI, EFI, and CBCI came together to be involved in such conversations. The participants affirmed the need for a 'prophetic witness' approach based on 'justice' to address societal injustices like caste discrimination and other social divides.

In August 2017, a parallel Pre-Asia Mission Conference meeting was also held in Yangon, Myanmar. The Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC) invited 200 theologians, missiologists, theological educators, and church leaders for a one-day Consultation on the theme of the AMC, to discuss the ramifications of the AMC for the churches and their mission in Myanmar. The participants were enriched with a new understanding of prophetic accompaniment and the theological undergirding of mission.



The CCA's Asia Mission Conference in October 2017, in Yangon, Myanmar, was attended by 600 participants

The Asia Mission Conference (AMC) in Yangon, Myanmar, in October 2017, gathered over 600 participants from member

churches, councils, and ecumenical partners to focus on the theme 'Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia'. The Conference contextualised theological thinking and tried to address missiological issues in the region. Prominent religious leaders from various faith traditions discussed truth, peace, and interreligious cooperation for societal harmony and justice. The Conference also emphasised the importance of accompaniment and partnerships for the liberation of those who are marginalised or oppressed. The adoption of the Asia Mission Statement was a significant outcome of the AMC. The Statement articulated "our self-understanding of mission, missiological convictions, and emerging mission concerns in Asia's pluralistic, multi-religious, and multi-ethnic contexts".

The CCA, in collaboration with the National Council of Churches in Pakistan (NCCP), organised a National Consultation on 'Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light' in February 2018, in Lahore, Pakistan. The Consultation aimed to address emerging missiological concerns and reaffirm the commitment of Pakistani church leaders to God's mission, amidst growing religious intolerance and discrimination faced by Pakistani Christians. The event was specially held after the denial of visas to Pakistani church representatives for the AMC in Myanmar. The event gathered around sixty participants from various member churches of NCCP and CCA in Pakistan. Notable leaders delivered thematic presentations, emphasising the importance of witnessing truth and light amidst challenges faced by churches in Pakistan, the necessity of listening, and the need for servanthood as a priority in Christian life and witness.

The Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC), with facilitation from the CCA, organised a national-level follow-up meeting to the AMC in Yangon, Myanmar, in May 2018. Over fifty representatives from various denominations and regional councils of the MCC, as well as from the Pentecostal and Evangelical churches, participated in the event. The Consultation emphasised the relevance of the

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Asia Mission Statement in the Myanmar context and encouraged attention to ecological issues, interfaith dialogue, economic justice, peacebuilding, and prophetic witnessing. The event was an opportunity to develop creative interpretations of the Asia Mission Statement that address the country's specific challenges and realities.

A joint National Consultation by CCA and Vichara in India followed the Asia Mission Conference and was held in Kottayam, India, in June 2018. It focused on 'Embracing the Strangers and Prophetic Witnessing'. Over seventy participants from across India gathered to discuss the theological significance of embracing strangers, particularly addressing the needs of refugees, displaced people, trafficking victims, and migrant workers. The Consultation highlighted the concept of the unconditional hospitality of God and reinterpreted hospitality amidst geopolitical changes. Migration was viewed as a means to enhance resource access, promoting inclusivity, and affirming social justice through critical community reconstruction.

Towards Revitalising the Asian Ecumenical Movement



Participants of the International Consultation on 'Towards Revitalising the Ecumenical Movement in Asia', July 2017 at the CCA Headquarters

The International Consultation titled 'Towards Revitalising the Ecumenical Movement in Asia' was organised by CCA in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Held in July 2017, the Consultation aimed to reflect on the state of the ecumenical movement in Asia. Sixty representatives from various ecclesial and ecumenical organisations addressed themes like emerging challenges, peace and reconciliation, religious intolerance, migration, and ecumenical formation. The CCA General Secretary emphasised the need for renewed commitment and a shared vision to revitalise the Asian ecumenical movement, urging increased cooperation and coordination. Thematic addresses by prominent figures, panel discussions on pressing challenges, and sessions on ecumenical formation were conducted. The question of including ecumenical education was raised, and the Conference suggested finding a new paradigm that accommodates both ecclesial-oriented and secular-oriented approaches. Participants urged all stakeholders to engage in revitalising the Asian ecumenical movement, emphasising coherence, unity, and the collective pursuit of God's mission.

Wider Ecumenism as Prophetic Witness

An International Consultation on 'Wider Ecumenism as Prophetic Witness' was held from 7–11 August 2018 in Bangalore, India, jointly organised by the CCA, ACISCA, BTESSC, and ECC. The Consultation focused on recognising God's image in adherents of all religious traditions, strengthening interfaith dialogue, and understanding wider ecumenism as a prophetic witness. 110 participants emphasised the importance of ecumenism in addressing wider societal realities, particularly in contexts where peace with justice is compromised. Keynote speakers highlighted the need for theologising in connection with other religions, nurturing spirituality, and embracing a God-centred Trinitarian ecumenism.

Discussions covered various perspectives, including reconfiguration of ecumenism, inclusivity of religious traditions,

and transforming painful situations through spiritual values. The Consultation provided a platform for Asian churches and ecumenical organisations to collectively strengthen wider ecumenism and develop a new ecumenical vision. The outcome emphasised the hermeneutical links between wider ecumenism and Missio Dei and laid out the foundation for unity in the entire oikoumene.

Evangelism and Missional Witness in a Multi-Religious Asia



Participants of the Asia Regional Consultation on 'Evangelism and Missional Witness in a Multi-Religious Asia', December 2019 at the CCA Headquarters

The Asia Regional Consultation on 'Evangelism and Missional Witness in a Multi-Religious Asia' was held at the CCA headquarters in December 2019. The Consultation brought together forty church leaders, theologians, and representatives from various ecclesiastical bodies to discuss evangelism and missional witness in the context of Asian churches. The goal was to explore methodologies and strategies for effective engagement in God's mission at the local level while learning from the experiences and innovative approaches of Asian churches.

Several presentations highlighted the need for a paradigm shift in the Asian context. The inherited evangelical and mission paradigm

was criticised for its 'lack of shalom' and the perception of the superiority of Christianity over other religions. A call was made for a wider ecumenical paradigm that went beyond traditional boundaries and meaningfully engaged with the multi-faith and multi-religious nature of Asia.

The concept of mission was redefined as the building of the kingdom of God in the present, encompassing justice in social, political, economic, religious, and ecological spheres. Holistic and multidimensional approaches to evangelism and missional witness were emphasised, with a focus on oppressed and suffering people in Asia. The impact of colonialism and imperialism on the perception of Christianity as a Western religion was recognised as a hindrance to evangelism. The Consultation aimed to study ways to overcome this perception and promote a more contextualised understanding of Christianity in Asia. Issues such as proselytisation among major religions, intra-proselytisation within Christianity, and counter-evangelism by other religions were discussed. The importance of promoting the ecumenical movement and developing a future theological paradigm for evangelism and mission in Asia was also highlighted. The Consultation provided a platform for dialogue and reflection on the challenges and opportunities of evangelism and missional witness in a multi-religious Asia, intending to foster a more inclusive and contextually relevant approach to spreading the Gospel.

Contextual Theology and Sustainability of Creation

Environmental challenges and human-made abuses threatening the sustainability of God's creation formed the focus of a national-level Consultation on 'Contextual Theology and Sustainability of Creation' organised in February 2020 in Tahan-Kalaymyo. Co-organised by the CCA and the Kalay Council of Churches, the Consultation facilitated discussions on the integration of theology with creation's sustainability, rethinking stewardship, and prioritising ecological justice and peace in education. The

sixty participants who attended committed themselves to concrete actions, including eco-justice awareness campaigns in their communities.

Churches in Asia Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis

Amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, Asian churches actively engaged in mitigating the spread of the virus and supporting affected communities. They have provided medical equipment and assistance, shelter, food provisions, medical and counselling services, and spiritual care during the pandemic. To share experiences and insights, the CCA organised a webinar titled ‘Churches in Asia Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis’ in May 2020, attracting around 100 participants directly via Zoom and over 5,000 through live-streamed channels.



Speakers of the webinar on ‘Churches in Asia Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis’, May 2020

The webinar’s five segments covered inter-church cooperation, the diaconal mission, collaboration with governments, theological reflections, and messages of hope and solidarity. Prominent ecclesial and ecumenical leaders from Asia shared their insights

and experiences, addressing challenges like relief mobilisation, aid to marginalised populations, online worship, and the food crisis. The webinar emphasised churches' need to re-examine their role in the pandemic-exposed world structure, prioritise care and compassion, and work together in solidarity. The crisis became a critical point for reflection, urging the Church to provide support for healing and restoration in the post-COVID-19 landscape.

Congress of Asian Theologians

Since its inception in 1997 by the CCA, the Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS) has been a dynamic force in nurturing innovative theological thinking in Asia. Recognising the need for a clearer articulation of Asian theologies, cultivation of new methodologies tailored to the Asian context, and the enhancement of academic and professional training for Asian theological scholarship, the CCA has taken a prominent lead in promoting the Asian theological agenda within the Asian ecumenical movement through CATS.

CATS' impact extends beyond theological discourse, strengthening the foundations of the Asian ecumenical movement and nurturing ecumenically committed leaders within Asian churches. Recognised as a valuable instrument by the CCA, CATS actively engages in global theological dialogues, making a distinct Asian contribution. Over the years, CATS gatherings in various locations have facilitated collaboration and knowledge-sharing among Asian theologians, promoting vibrant theological voices in the global ecumenical landscape.

Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–VIII

The CCA organised the eighth Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS–VIII) in Cochin, Kerala, from 18–22 April 2016, which was hosted by the Senate of the Serampore College and the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in India. The theme of the Congress was 'Doing Asian Theologies in the Context of God's



Participants of the Eighth Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS–VIII) on ‘Doing Asian Theologies in the Context of God’s Oikos’ held in April 2016 in Cochin, India

Oikos’. More than a hundred participants and resource persons gathered to explore the meaning of living together in God’s oikos and to discuss how to reconcile all things in God, promote justice and peace, and share in God’s eternal life. Prior to the main event, a preparatory meeting was held from 30 November–1 December 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

During the Congress, Rev. Dr Huang Po Ho from Chang Jung University in Taiwan delivered a keynote address, emphasising the need for a new world order grounded in justice, peace, and fullness of life. He criticised globalisation’s role in subjugating the house of God to market principles and expressed his concerns about the colonial importation of Christian theologies in Asia.

Sister Salini Mulackal, President of the Indian Theological Association, stressed the importance of making theology relevant at the grassroots level and the necessity for it to be a credible and ongoing exercise. Dr Peter C. Phan, a prominent Vietnamese theologian, called for a focus on migrant theology and criticised the discord among various Christian denominations competing for dominance. Dr Binsar J. Pakpahan from Indonesia addressed the need to re-imagine the covenantal relation and stewardship in God’s oikos. He highlighted the contrast between the honour-based communities in Asia and the honour standards demonstrated by Jesus, emphasising the importance of a new spiritual attitude that accepts shame.

The participants actively engaged in group discussions on various emerging issues in Asia, including peace and human security, migration, religious harmony, poverty, disabilities, spirituality in the digitalised world, and violence against women and children. The summit provided a platform for theological presentations within different disciplines such as biblical theology, history of Christianity, contextual theology, missiology, Christian ethics, practical theology, and interfaith relations.

At the conclusion of CATS–VIII, the participants recognised the unique identity of Asian churches, embracing their cultural diversity and plurality of faith and spirituality. They expressed their commitment to the fullness of God’s oikos in Asian societies marked by suffering, vowing to utilise available resources creatively and stand in solidarity with marginalised communities and their struggle for survival and livelihood.

Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–IX

The CCA conducted a Preparatory Meeting for CATS–IX in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in November 2018, with the goals of formulating a theme and sub-themes, and planning workshop topics, speakers, and the programme schedule. The Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from CCA, FABC, ATESEA, and BTESSC, finalised the theme and subthemes.



Participants of the Ninth Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS–IX) on ‘Reconciliation, Renewal, and Restoration: Divine Indicative and Human Imperative’, August 2019 in Medan, Indonesia

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The Ninth Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–IX held in Medan, Indonesia, proved to be a momentous gathering that brought together over 120 theologians from various Asian traditions. Under the theme ‘Reconciliation, Renewal, and Restoration: Divine Indicative and Human Imperative’, CATS–IX delved into critical discussions surrounding a relevant Asian theology. With sub-themes like ‘Reconciliation: Towards the Harmony of Creation’, ‘Renewal: Towards the Fullness of Life’, and ‘Restoration: Towards Affirming the Will of God’, the CATS–IX sparked insightful reflections on the interconnectedness of creation and salvation.

The opening ceremony embraced Indonesian cultural practices, adding a touch of solemnity and showcasing the region’s rich heritage. Rev. Agustinus Purba’s homily on Genesis 9:12–17 highlighted the essence of understanding God’s creation to know the Creator better. Archbishop Dr Willem T.P. Simarmata, the then-Moderator of the CCA, urged theologians to resist discrimination and strive for restoration and renewal of creation. Emphasising inclusive ways of living together, he called for a commitment to justice and peace to address contemporary challenges in Asia.

Throughout CATS–IX, thematic addresses engaged participants in profound reflections on the theme. Dr Kuriakose Mor Theophilose Metropolitan presented reconciliation as an inclusive concept beyond mere forgiveness, emphasising God’s objective work through Christ in restoring broken relationships. Dr Lily Apura explored ‘Reconciliation: Towards the Harmony of Creation’; by advocating for ‘resistance hermeneutics’ to recover life-giving indigenous worldviews and challenge dominant theologies. Bishop Dr Daniel Thiagarajah shared insights on addressing poverty and injustice in Asian theology, highlighting Christ’s powerlessness on the cross as a source of hope for marginalised communities. Fr. Clarence Devadass emphasised placing theology at the service of the people of Asia and the need for shifts in Asian theological thinking to address pressing issues such as poverty, hunger, and discrimination.



Panel Discussion on 'Reconciliation, Renewal, and Restoration of Creation: Interfaith Perspectives' during CATS–IX

A special session on 'Reconciliation, Renewal, and Restoration of Creation: Interfaith Perspectives' showcased insights from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity, encouraging dialogue and understanding among diverse religious traditions. The Congress provided a platform for theologians to engage in critical thinking rooted in Asian contexts, envisioning a transformative theology that addresses the pressing challenges of the region.

Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–X

The CCA organised an online CATS–X Advisory Committee meeting in April 2021, attended by five representatives from FABC, ATESEA, and BTESSC. The meeting aimed to develop a theme and sub-themes for CATS–X, focusing on emerging issues in Asia. Discussions included the COVID-19 pandemic situation and theological agendas, resulting in two proposed themes, 'Will of God' and 'Healing and Restoration of Community', aligned with the 15th CCA General Assembly Theme of 'God, Renew Us in Your Spirit and Restore the Creation'.

With its valuable insights and ideas, it is hoped that the CATS will continue to shape theological discourse in Asia and guide theologians, churches, and religious communities towards justice, peace, and sustainable development.

Asian Women Doing Theology in the Context of Wider Ecumenism

In Asia, various challenges threaten shared values and create divisions, such as modernisation, poverty, human rights violations, discrimination against minorities, authoritarian regimes, and environmental issues. Women often bear the brunt of these challenges, facing gender insensitivity and discrimination in Asian societies. Churches' ecumenical responses are vital in addressing these complexities. The CCA recognises the importance of contextualising faith and biblical interpretation with Asia's socio-economic and political realities, especially for women and youth. To empower women theologians, the CCA provides a platform to reflect on emerging trends from a gender perspective, enabling them to become prophetic agents for change in Asian churches and societies.



Participants of the Regional Consultation on 'Asian Women Doing Theology in the Context of Wider Ecumenism', April 2016 in Cochin, India

The CCA hosted a Regional Consultation in Cochin, Kerala, on 'Asian Women Doing Theology in the Context of Wider Ecumenism' in April 2016. Twenty Asian young women pastors, theologians, and seminary students from various countries participated. The gathering aimed to empower women theologians, promote their leadership, and foster fellowship and networking. Discussions

focused on amplifying women's voices, enhancing gender partnership in God's mission, and creating lasting legacies for Asian women theologians in their contexts. Participants stressed the importance of robust collaborations of Christian women in Asia to facilitate theological engagement within the wider ecumenical network.

The CCA organised a National Conference on Women Doing Theology in Lahore, Pakistan, in February 2018. Thirty-three women theologians from various churches and institutions attended, voicing concerns over women's domination and devaluation in Asian society, including within the church. They emphasised the need for theological exegesis supporting women's dignity, equality, and empowerment. The theologians recognised their role in nurturing prophetic voices, advocating for liberating theology, and addressing gender-based violence. Through Bible study sessions and exploration of Christian family laws, the participants emphasised the importance of equal opportunities for men and women to participate in mission and witness, acknowledging the significance of togetherness and embracing life in its fullness.

Contextualisation of Theology in Asia and Ecumenical Theological Education

Asian theology has evolved with a focus on contextualising the Gospel to local contexts, but progress in contextual hermeneutics has been limited. Asian churches have recognised the need for inter-contextual engagements and for integrating emerging contextual theologies with a broader ecumenical vision. The ecumenical movement has struggled to stimulate theological thinking from an Asian perspective, hindering the development of contextual theology. The CCA under this programme has aimed to encourage churches to develop contextual theologies with an Asian perspective, addressing emerging issues in Asia. Additionally, the CCA has been actively supporting leadership

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and ecumenical formation, and providing training programmes in Asian ecumenical and contextual theology to assist churches and their leaders, especially in remote areas, facing challenges in leadership and theological education.



Working Group Meeting for Curriculum-Building and Management of the East Timor Christian Institute (ETCI), October 2016 at the CCA Headquarters

The CCA organised a two-day workshop and working group meeting for the curriculum-building and management of the East Timor Christian Institute (ETCI) in October 2016 at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai. The workshop aimed to assist in curriculum-building and management for the educational institute of the Igreja Protestante Iha Timor Lorosa'e (IPTL), which was constructed with the support of Korean churches. Eight IPTL representatives and theological education experts came together to develop short- and long-term academic courses, focusing on creating a contextual theology that addresses specific challenges in East Timor. The goal was to empower pastors to run self-sustaining ministries and contribute to nation-building, considering the nation's struggle, political history, and indigenous culture.

In May 2017, the CCA conducted a training programme in Dili, Timor Leste, bringing together forty-five pastors, evangelists, and lay leaders from various member churches. Sessions covered

mission, evangelism, diakonia ministry, contextual Bible reading, and homiletics, broadening theological perspectives. The IPTL hosted the training and has been vital in justice and reconciliation efforts since the time of Timor Leste's struggle for independence. The CCA supported the IPTL in curriculum development for the ETCL to address the leadership and educational needs of Protestant churches in the country through grassroots ecumenical theological training.

Asian Ecumenical Theological Educators' Network and Database (AETEND)

Asian churches' engagement in ecumenical theological education has been prominent through their theological institutions, colleges, seminaries, and faculties. Many theologians from these institutions have made significant contributions to the Church and the ecumenical movement. The CCA, through the CATS and AMCU, has provided platforms for Asian theologians to network and collaborate. However, there have not been any systematic approaches at the regional level to avail the expertise or to make use of the talents of the younger generations of Asian ecumenical theologians, especially for sharing ecumenical theological insights for the benefit of churches and theological institutions in countries where more qualified and well-abled theologians are absent. To further facilitate this cooperation, the CCA developed the Asian Ecumenical Theological Educators' Network and Database (AETEND), a centralised database of theologians willing to support churches and institutions. The database aims to enable the exchange of information and resources on ecumenical theology, especially for younger churches in need of expertise and qualified theologians.

Churches' Response to Health, Healing, and Wholeness in Changing Contexts in Asia

An Asia Regional Consultation on 'Faith, Health, and Healing: Christian Response in Asia Today' was organised by the CCA in October 2022 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It gathered sixty medical professionals, church leaders, and representatives from health-

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related organisations. The Consultation acknowledged the significant role of Christian hospitals in providing healthcare services to the poor and marginalised populations in Asia. However, commercialisation had affected the original purpose and mission of church-related medical institutions and the Consultation called for a renewed commitment to health and healing ministry.



Participants of the Asia Regional Consultation on 'Faith, Health, and Healing: Christian Response in Asia Today', October 2022 in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Participants discussed the theology of health, healing, and wholeness, emphasising the importance of spirituality and compassionate care in addressing the physical and mental well-being of individuals and communities. The Consultation recognised the need for innovative approaches and collaboration with government and traditional medicine to effectively respond to pandemics, communicable and non-communicable diseases, disabilities, and environmental health challenges.



Worship session at the Asia Regional Consultation on 'Faith, Health, and Healing: Christian Response in Asia Today'

The declaration adopted at the end of the Consultation in October 2022 outlined twelve points of action for Asian churches and Christian healthcare institutions. These points included eliminating financial barriers to healthcare, investing in human resources through medical education, promoting governance and transparency, combating misinformation, and addressing the climate emergency. The declaration affirmed the Church's unique role in healing and restoring wholeness in broken lives, guided by faith, compassion, and unconditional love.

Biblical-Theological Bases for Human Dignity and Human Rights

The CCA organised a special programme on Biblical-Theological Bases for Human Dignity and Human Rights in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 2022, inviting twenty-seven young church workers and pastors from ten Asian countries for a week-long programme. The programme focused on biblical and theological foundations for human rights and provided modules and sessions conducted by renowned resource persons to enhance awareness, understanding, and respect for human rights. Participants engaged in experiential workshops and activities to reinforce learning and explore practical applications. The training aimed to equip young church workers and pastors with skills and knowledge to promote and defend human dignity and rights in their respective contexts.



Ecumenical Leadership Formation and Ecumenical Spirituality

Ecumenical formation plays a crucial role in responding to God's call for unity, promoting the ecumenical vision and mission. It aims to equip members of the Church with a deeper understanding of God's mystery and the Church's role in unity, fostering engagement with ecumenical principles and values. The diverse nature of the Church in different contexts necessitates ecumenical formation that embraces the grace of God, seeking unity in diversity. The ecumenical movement seeks obedience to the Word of God and the promptings of the Holy Spirit, ensuring faithfulness to God's gifts while equipping members for the mission and ministry of the Church.

Spirituality holds significance in ecumenical formation and leadership development, prioritising the conversion of heart and spiritual renewal. It is regarded as the soul of the ecumenical movement, enabling individuals to share deeply in the movement and witness to the Gospel of Christ through their lives. The CCA values the spiritual resources found in various Christian traditions and ecclesial communities, drawing upon their richness and diversity to develop an Asian ecumenical spirituality. The CCA focuses on developing human resources, providing ecumenical spaces for theological sharing, and assisting in the formation of a new generation of leaders committed to Christian renewal and living together in the household of God in Asia.

Impact at a Glance

Total programmes: 48 • Total participants: 2,004

Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia

Programmes organised: 11 • Participants: 468

Youth Leadership Development

Programmes organised: 7 • Participants: 606

Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)

Programmes organised: 7 • Participants: 177

Women Leadership Development

Programmes organised: 7 • Participants: 456

Ecumenical Spirituality and Nurturing of Contextual Liturgical Traditions

Programmes organised: 2 • Participants: 15

Asia Sunday

Programmes organised: 7

Renewed Ecumenical Impetus for Grassroots Ecumenism

Programmes organised: 5 • Participants: 215

Strengthening Family Values in a Changing Asia

Programmes organised: 1 • Participants: 50

Asian Ecumenical Fellowship

Participants: 5

Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia

The CCA recognises the importance of promoting wider ecumenism from the grassroots level and actively equipping pastors, church leaders, youth, women, and lay leaders for a more holistic ministry. To contribute to the ecumenical formation and capacity enhancement of church leaders, the CCA has been conducting non-formal ecumenical educational programmes for several years to address the needs of the CCA's constituencies,

especially where there is a lack of ecumenical theological education, and where many pastors and church leaders do not have much access to ecumenical theological education in their contexts. The CCA's Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia (EETA) programme aims to develop ecumenical leadership at various levels, empowering participants with an Asian contextual theologising and biblical hermeneutics lens. Through contextual understanding and skill development, two to three EETAs are conducted annually with selected member churches, fostering ownership and commitment to the ecumenical movement in Asia. The programme directly reaches participants in their local contexts, building a strong national network of churches for mission and evangelism.

In 2015, the CCA conducted multiple EETA programmes across different Asian countries, focusing on promoting grassroots ecumenism and nurturing leadership. In Lahore, Pakistan (October 2015), thirty-three participants engaged in discussions on biblical and theological aspects, intra-faith dialogues, gender justice, ecological issues, and shared leadership. In Dili, Timor Leste (November 2015), forty-five participants deepened their understanding of living together in the household of God and on ways of serving their community through prophetic witnessing and advocacy. In Phnom Penh, Cambodia (November 2015), another forty-five participants explored ecumenism beyond church boundaries and discussed engaging in ecumenical formation and leadership training as trainers themselves. The regional EETA programme in Chiang Mai, Thailand (December 2015) gathered ten young Christians to strengthen their theoretical and theological knowledge, analyse social realities, and to effectively respond to contemporary ecumenical challenges. Participants expressed satisfaction with the training's relevance and hoped it would enhance their leadership abilities, particularly in preaching ministry.

In January 2016, the CCA conducted a national EETA programme for forty-seven women leaders of the Lao Evangelical Church (LEC) in Vientiane, Laos, on the theme 'Women in the Household

of God'. The training addressed challenges faced by women pastors and church workers, nurtured an ecumenical perspective in their missionary work, and provided non-formal theological education. Interactive sessions on violence against women, women's leadership in the church, and Bible studies with a women's perspective empowered participants to share and discuss their issues. The LEC leadership and women's committee expressed gratitude to the CCA for the unique and women-focused ecumenical training, emphasising the need for more such training programmes for women and youth in ecumenical leadership formation and leadership development in Laos.

The CCA organised an 'Ecumenical Theological Orientation Training' under the EETA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in April 2017. Thirty-five pastors, church leaders, and youth and women leaders of the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC) were able to broaden their theological understanding and were sensitised to ecumenical issues, and thus were empowered to incorporate their new learnings into their pastoral ministries. They pledged to nurture their ecumenical ministry in the local context, and developed action plans. In May 2017, the CCA collaborated with the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) to conduct ecumenical theological training for forty-five young pastors in Chiang Dao, Thailand. The training focused on interfaith contexts and Christian witness in Thailand, where Buddhism is the dominant religion. The EETA aimed to promote mutual understanding, cooperation, and common witness through dialogue, and covered topics such as worship, spirituality, ecology, peace, gender equality, and prophetic diakonia. The participants appreciated the sessions and committed to reflect on their ministries for their communities' betterment.

Two EETA programmes were conducted by the CCA in 2018. In March, CCA organised an EETA at the headquarters of the KCC in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The theme of the training was 'Arise, Shine; For Your Light Has Come: Let Us Witness Together'. The forty-five participants who attended the training were from grassroots congregations. They discussed contextualising faith, articulating theological vision, and witnessing in unity to

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overcome challenges and transform injustices into justice and peace. The CCA and the National Council of Churches in Nepal (NCCN) organised a national EETA programme in Kathmandu, Nepal in May 2018 for ninety grassroots church representatives. Keeping in mind the strict laws against religious conversion prevalent in Nepal, the training aimed to enhance theological education, strengthen leadership, promote unity among Christians, and heal divisions within Christian communities. The enthusiastic participation and involvement of youth members were noteworthy.

The CCA and the KCC organised an EETA in Phnom Penh in May 2019 on 'Servanthood and Accompaniment with the People of Cambodia'. It aimed to promote theological education and solidarity with vulnerable communities. Forty-three participants from various Christian denominations attended, expressing enthusiasm for ongoing ecumenical support and self-reliance. Local leaders highlighted the church's role in reconciliation and healing, and participants emphasised the need for interpreting the Bible locally and establishing a strong ecumenical movement in Cambodia, breaking free from foreign mission control.

After a prolonged interruption because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCA resumed its EETA programmes with a national-level training in Dili, Timor Leste, in September 2022. The programme equipped thirty pastors and church workers with a deeper understanding of ecumenism. Sessions focused on living harmoniously with God's creation, encouraging youth, and mission. Facilitators emphasised the church's role in God's mission, reading the Bible in Timor Leste's context, and leadership based on servanthood. The training was interdenominational and fostered indigenous church identity as well as an awareness of ecological and human rights issues.

Youth Leadership Development

The CCA acknowledges the vital role of youth in Asian churches and society, despite facing challenges such as limited resources,

lack of access to education and healthcare, unemployment, and the negative impact of globalisation. To address their needs, the CCA over the last eight years initiated different platforms such as the Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly, youth internships, and exchanges. Such programmes foster leadership skills, widen exposure to the ecumenical movement, and propel advocacy for social justice across borders through youth networks. By actively supporting and engaging young people, the CCA aims to ensure their equal participation in the ecumenical movement, nurturing them as leaders of today and tomorrow, who can bring positive change to their communities and beyond.

Ecumenical Sunday School Curriculum



The CCA and EMW jointly organised the Asian Conference on Ecumenical Sunday School Curriculum in January 2016, in Chiang Mai, Thailand

In January 2016, the CCA and the Evangelische Mission Weltweit (EMW) co-organised the Asian Conference on Ecumenical Sunday School Curriculum in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with twenty-five representatives from various Asian countries. The Conference highlighted the importance of ecumenical formation for children and youth and discussed ways to develop ecumenical curricula for Sunday schools. Participants suggested cross-visits to learn from

each other's programmes and encouraged churches in Nepal, Timor Leste, and Cambodia to develop their own Sunday school initiatives, emphasising the need for continuous communication and information sharing among participants.

Youth Leadership Training

Cambodia's youth, making up two-thirds of its population, face challenges like limited resources, education, and healthcare access, leading to high unemployment and poverty. Recognising their potential, the CCA conducted a national training for youth leadership in Phnom Penh in June 2016. Thirty-five young people from the KCC attended the training, which aimed to bridge the gap between the Christian faith and the socio-economic and political realities of Cambodian youth, thus empowering them to become qualified leaders of their communities.

A two-day ecumenical youth training in Pematang Siantar, Indonesia, in July 2016, gathered fifty young individuals from different denominations to promote unity, raise awareness of social justice issues, and engage in the ecumenical movement. Roman Catholic youth were also present. Later in August 2016, another youth leadership training in Chiang Mai, Thailand was organised. It was attended by twenty-four young adults from Mekong sub-regional countries, focused on shared challenges and on strengthening the ecumenical movement in their local context.

In Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in May 2017, an ecumenical formation and leadership development training brought together twenty-seven participants from diverse Christian backgrounds. The training aimed to empower Christian youth to advocate for social justice through ecumenical youth networks, addressing challenges like migration, racism, and limited engagement in the wider ecumenical movement. Focused on multi-religious Asian contexts and grassroots-level economies, the programmes inspired the participants to nurture youth leadership and to foster inclusive communities in their churches and communities, aiming for a paradigm shift in the ecumenical movement.

The Youth Leadership Development Training in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in July 2019, co-organised by the CCA and the KCC, trained forty-five young participants from various provinces to become ecumenical leaders. Covering topics like youth empowerment, servant leadership, and social issues, the training aimed to instil confidence and hope in addressing societal challenges. Participants recognised their integral role in church and society, highlighting their faith, dynamism, and vision for a better future.

Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA)



Over 400 Asian youth gathered in April 2018 in Manado, Indonesia, for the Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA)

The Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA) took place in Manado, Indonesia, from 6–12 April 2018. The event, hosted by the Gereja Masehi Injili Minahasa (GMIM) and the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI), gathered over 400 young people from across Asia. It was the largest Asian ecumenical youth event that the CCA had organised since the Asian Youth Assembly in 1984. The AEYA aimed to address emerging Asian issues and themes such as the role of Asian youth in shaping a transformed world, prophetic witness to truth and light, spirituality in a digitalised world, embracing diversity and human dignity, and changing family values and cultures in Asia.

During the opening ceremony, the AEYA was officially inaugurated with a liturgical worship service led by local and international

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leaders. The theme of the Assembly, 'Lord, Send Your Light and Truth to Lead Us', was emphasised by Archbishop Willem T.P. Simarmata, the then-CCA Moderator, who called upon the participants to be a source of positive change in the face of challenges such as religious intolerance, lack of education, poverty, gender-based injustices, and environmental issues.



Asian Easter Celebrations with the AEYA Participants in Manado, Indonesia

The Assembly included various dialogue sessions that addressed critical topics such as religious intolerance, artificial intelligence, human trafficking, technological advancements, and the disappearing values of love and care in a “selfie” culture. Prominent Asian ecumenical leader Bishop Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan, who served as the first Youth Secretary of CCA, was honoured for his contributions to the ecumenical movement.

The AEYA also featured interfaith dialogue sessions, where religious leaders and scholars from Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Taoism engaged in discussions with AEYA participants. The panellists emphasised the need for unity, respect, and understanding among different religions and highlighted the importance of countering religious extremism, promoting peace, and building bridges between communities.



Over 400 young people joined in celebration during the AEYA

The AEYA was a platform for young Asian Christians to discuss pressing issues, explore solutions, and strengthen the Asian ecumenical movement. Through dialogue, worship, and reflection, participants were encouraged to become agents of positive change, promote interfaith understanding, and uphold the values of spirituality in the midst of a digitalised world.

Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)

The CCA's annual Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) provides ecumenical formation for young theological students, pastors, and lay youth leaders. This month-long residential course focuses on Asian realities, biblical and theological reflections, community-building, and leadership training. The purpose of the AEI is to strengthen ecumenical leadership in Asian churches and empower participants to serve the Asian ecumenical movement by emphasising unity, networking, and leadership. The course also emphasises the institutional aspects of ecumenism, contemporary ecumenical movements, ecumenical spirituality, and the involvement of lay leaders in the ecumenical movement.

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*Participants of Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)-2016
in Chiang Mai, Thailand*

The AEI-2016 was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October–November 2016. It trained nineteen young ecumenical leaders from Asia under the theme ‘Shaping a New Paradigm for Wider Ecumenism in Asia’. The four key components were analysing Asian realities, developing an ecumenical vision based on biblical and theological reflections, fostering community-building, and providing leadership training. Through presentations, panels, thematic discussions, grassroots exposure visits, and research paper preparations, the participants explored topics such as inclusive communities, youth leadership, peacebuilding, gender equality, disabilities, and ecological justice within their respective churches.



*Participants of Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)-2017
in Yangon, Myanmar*

In conjunction with the Asia Mission Conference (AMC), AEI-2017 was held in October 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar. The theme

was 'Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to Truth and Light in Asia'. The month-long intensive course provided twenty-two participants with valuable learning opportunities to envision wider ecumenism and develop new theological insights. Through discussions, exposure visits, and research presentations, the participants explored inclusive communities, youth leadership, peacebuilding, gender equality, disabilities, and ecological justice. Attending the Asia Mission Conference and the CCA's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, they left with a renewed commitment to ecumenical vision and readiness to lead in their churches and communities.



Participants of Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2018

The AEI–2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, trained twenty-six young ecumenical leaders with a focus on 'Wider Ecumenism in Asia's Pluralistic Context'. Renowned speakers addressed interfaith perspectives, contextual Bible studies, and justice and peace struggles. The participants engaged in various activities, including presentations, discussions, and grassroots exposure visits. They visited the Mae La Refugee Camp in Mae Sot, Thailand, where they learnt about the challenges faced by refugees and shared their experiences in Sunday worship services. Through their research papers, the participants expressed their commitment to building inclusive communities, nurturing youth leadership, promoting peace, and addressing climate change in their respective churches.



Participants of AEI–2019 focused on ‘Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Struggle for Peace with Justice in Asia’

The theme of AEI–2019 was ‘Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Struggle for Peace with Justice in Asia’. Twenty-four participants delved into discussions, panels, presentations, self-guided study, daily devotion, and preparation of special assignments. Through exposure visits, the AEI–2019 participants visited the Suan Dok Buddhist temple at the Mahachulalongkorn Rajavidyala University as well as the first church to be established in the city of Chiang Mai. These on-ground interfaith experiences were yet another space for the AEI participants to develop an appreciation for the uniqueness of Asia’s religions. An exposure trip was also organised to Chiang Rai, Mae Sai, and Mae Ai districts, and the Thai-Myanmar border.

In 2020, the AEI–2020 was conducted online with a focus on ‘We are Called to be Stewards of Renewal and Restoration for God’s Creation’. It aimed to deepen participants’ knowledge of ecumenism and the ecological challenges in Asia. Bringing together thirty-six students, the programme equipped them to respond effectively to the call of stewardship for God’s creation. Lectures covered ecumenism, ecological theology, interfaith dialogue, and global challenges, emphasising inclusive approaches and defining ecclesiology. The AEI–2020 empowered



AEI-2020 online

participants to advocate for sustainable development, uphold human dignity and rights, and contribute to the well-being of vulnerable communities.



The virtual AEI-2021 focused on the theme 'God's Assurance of Healing and Restoration'

The online format continued in 2021, with the virtual AEI-2021 focusing on the theme 'God's Assurance of Healing and

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Restoration'. Twenty-six students attended the month-long course which covered ecumenism, emerging Asian realities, and theological principles, with distinguished faculty members from various institutions. AEI-2021 encompassed three components: ecumenical foundations, thematic topics, and youth leadership development. Students engaged in interactive dialogues with prominent ecumenical leaders in Asia, sharing challenges and action plans. They expressed gratitude for the course's impact on their theological perspectives, sensitivity, and commitment to inclusivity, showcased in an online valedictory session led by the students.



AEI-2022 at the CCA Headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand

After the hiatus caused by COVID-19, which necessitated an online format, AEI-2022 returned to the in-person format, with twenty-four students from various Asian countries at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai. The theme, 'God of Hope, Sustain Your Creation in Harmony' addressed the COVID-19 impact and focused on ecumenism, missiology, gender justice, eco-theology, and interfaith dialogue. Field visits and research presentations enabled participants to engage with Asia's religious diversity and

pressing issues in their communities. The programme fostered peer-to-peer networks for continued learning and meaningful engagement with God's creation, developing future church leaders and ecumenical educators.

The 2023 edition of AEI will be held in conjunction with the 15th CCA General Assembly in Kottayam, India.

Women Leadership Development

Women's leadership and participation are often limited or restricted at both local and global levels, despite their proven abilities as leaders and agents of change. This lack of representation occurs in all spheres of life, including within the church. Many churches in Asia have been slow to address gender and women's concerns, leading to a situation where women are not accepted as leaders and are denied prominent roles. Women's involvement in the church is often limited to their domestic roles rather than in their being engaged in decision-making and mainstream activities.

To address these challenges, the CCA is committed to promoting women's leadership development and to supporting the churches in Asia in overcoming barriers to women's leadership in both the church and society. This includes providing opportunities for women leaders to engage with the ecumenical movement, advocating for women's issues, and revitalising ecumenical women's networks in Asia. The aim of the CCA, under this programme, is to promote the establishment of inclusive communities within the church that fully utilise and harness women's abilities and ensure their equal participation at all decision-making levels.

Cambodia

In Cambodia, women face constraints in contributing to development due to traditional norms and limited education opportunities. Domestic violence and human trafficking add to the challenges. To address these barriers, the CCA and

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the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC) organised a ‘Women Leadership Development Training’ with forty-seven participants, promoting gender equality, women’s rights, and legal protection. The training, held in April 2017, empowered women to advocate for their rights and fostered a national network of Christian women in Cambodia.

Laos

Three women leadership development trainings were held in Laos, in October 2015, in November–December 2018 and January 2023, in partnership with the Laos Evangelical Church (LEC), to enhance the grassroots leadership capacities of women in a country with religious restrictions. In October 2015, LEC women church leaders asked for biblical and theological training for women pastors. The three-day training in 2018 brought together sixty-five participants, reflecting on biblical foundations and addressing pressing issues like domestic violence and trafficking. The programme fostered a sense of unity and collaboration among participants, empowering them to play significant roles in God’s mission. In 2023, fifty women leaders from eight provinces gathered for a national-level training programme organised by the CCA and LEC, focused on leadership development, biblical understanding, and challenges faced by Lao women. The training aimed to strengthen their leadership capacities and foster an ecumenical framework within the rapidly growing church.

Asian Ecumenical Women’s Assembly

A three-day planning meeting at the Bangkok Christian Guest House gathered ten representatives from Asian ecumenical women’s organisations in March 2018. The meeting aimed to address the slow recognition of women’s leadership in churches and to plan the Asian Ecumenical Women’s Assembly (AEWA) in 2019, hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. In June 2019, a CCA delegation led by the CCA General Secretary visited Taiwan, engaging in discussions with local host committees for the AEWA preparations. They also met with heads of CCA

member churches and the national council of churches to discuss changing ecumenical landscapes. Conversations included various ministries like those directed at migrants, indigenous people, social development, interreligious dialogue, and peace efforts. The delegation also visited an HIV and AIDS advocacy project and held meetings with key church figures in Taiwan.



*Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly on the theme
'Arise, Be Awake to Reconcile, Renew, and Restore the Creation'
in November 2019, Hsinchu, Taiwan*

The Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (AEWA) took place in Hsinchu, Taiwan from 21–27 November 2019 and brought together over 250 representatives from churches, national councils, and ecumenical organisations in Asia. Hosted by the PCT, this historic gathering focused on the theme 'Arise, be Awake to Reconcile, Renew, and Restore the Creation'. The AEWA aimed to empower Asian Christian women to play a significant role in healing the world and in fostering reconciliation, renewal, and restoration. Archbishop Dr Willem T.P. Simarmata, the CCA Moderator, acknowledged the transformative power of women in shaping the future of Christianity, while the CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara emphasised the need to address gender representation and promote inclusivity in church and society.

Four thematic presentations shed light on the struggles and aspirations of women in different contexts. Vavauni Ljaljegean,

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Four panel presentations focused on different aspects of the AEWA theme and sub-themes

a young indigenous theologian from Taiwan, highlighted the marginalised status of Taiwanese indigenous women and their experiences of suffering, including trafficking and forced prostitution. She emphasised the need for truth and justice as essential components of reconciliation. Dr Sawako Fujiwara from Japan urged participants to be agents of reconciliation, emphasising the importance of inclusive communities and the recognition of transwomen. Dr Deidre Palmer from Australia called for the renewal of women's participation and leadership in the church, stressing the need for solidarity, equality, and justice. Rev. Irene Umbu Lolo from Indonesia's Sumba region drew parallels between the experiences of women weavers and the restorative actions of God, highlighting weaving as a process of empowering communities, restoring nature, and achieving inner peace. These presentations collectively emphasised the importance of addressing injustice, promoting inclusivity, and working towards the restoration and renewal of individuals and communities.

Four panel discussions addressed critical issues such as women's empowerment, environmental stewardship, interfaith

spirituality, and inclusive leadership. The presenters from different religious and cultural backgrounds shared their perspectives and experiences, emphasising the importance of education for empowering women, the responsibility to care for the environment, and the need for inclusive leadership in the Church and society. A special interfaith session highlighted the transformative power of women's spirituality. The discussions stressed the importance of collaboration and joint action among Asian women's organisations to jointly address societal challenges and promote equality and sustainability.



Workshops and Bible Study sessions during the AEWA–2019

Aside from thematic and panel presentations, three workshop sessions were conducted to facilitate dialogue among Asian women on specific concerns and issues. The concerns and issues addressed in the workshops included: the spirituality and wisdom

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of Asian women, ecofeminism and climate change, women in church ministry, migration and trafficking of women in Asia, interfaith marriages, society and culture, poverty and hunger, reconstruction of women's bodies, resisting patriarchy and family values, health and wholeness of life, also objectification, sexualisation, and commodification of women.

At the conclusion of the Assembly, participants adopted a Communique affirming the need to stand together in solidarity towards realising justice and peace at this Kairos moment of their planet earth, and that they were with one voice in asserting 'NO' to a culture of violence and exploitation of earth's resources. The Communique stated that humanity is at a critical time when the whole of God's creation is groaning due to irresponsible human action, greed and continuing discrimination, violence and exploitation of women and children. Without repenting from the sin of greed, and without reconciling and doing justice to God's creation, to women and marginalised communities in particular, the world will not experience justice and peace.

The Assembly called all the participants to rise up and nurture their roles for the liberation of the whole creation and to commit themselves to working together to uphold the rights and dignity of all women; initiate common actions to strengthen the ecumenical movement, avoid fragmentation of the women's movement, and duplication of programmes and activities within the ecumenical family as they need to work together for the common goal of supporting and accompanying women in Asia.

Twenty-two women from various Asian countries held a virtual reunion two years after the AEWA, in December 2021. They discussed mission in the digital age, migration, gender norms, and leadership. The reunion meeting affirmed the importance of sisterhood, engaging with young people, and generating awareness of mental health in the church. The reunion was meaningful and empowering, fostering mutual support through sharing real issues and experiences.

Ecumenical Spirituality and Nurturing of Contextual Liturgical Traditions

The CCA recognises the importance of worship and liturgy in the Christian faith and its role in the ecumenical movement. Efforts are being made to revitalise and deepen worship practices, including the use of Asian resources to invigorate worship life. Asian churches, known for their rich spiritual traditions, are exploring the use of Asian resources to invigorate their worship life. Worship is seen as more than praise, involving acknowledgement of human weakness, repentance, and addressing the world's pain and suffering. The CCA aims to foster a broader understanding of worship, promote mutual understanding among Asian Christians, and develop ecumenical liturgical resources for communal prayer and praise.

The CCA organised a six-day workshop in Yangon, Myanmar, in January 2017, bringing together a group of specialised Asian liturgists and musicians. The workshop, co-hosted by the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC), had the aim of reflecting on developing ecumenical spirituality and nurturing contextual liturgical traditions in Asia. With the theme "Worship and Liturgical Traditions in Asia", the workshop also served as the starting point for creating worship resources for the Asia Mission Conference (AMC)–2017. During the workshop, twelve participants worked on developing the theme song for AMC–2017 and worship resources, including hymns, that aligned with the main theme and sub-themes. Led by Rev. Dr I-to Loh, an experienced Asian specialist in music and liturgy, the workshop enabled participants to explore and appreciate the diverse and spiritually profound liturgical and musical traditions rooted in Asian culture.

In preparation for the 15th CCA General Assembly, the CCA formed an Assembly Worship Preparation Team which held its first meeting in February 2020 at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The team aimed to create worship resources that would reflect the richness and diversity of Asia's spiritual

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essences and incorporate relevant biblical texts and passages for meditation and reflection during the Assembly's daily worship sessions. Among the participants in the meeting were Rev. Dr Ester Pudjo Widiasih, Dr Rommel Linatoc, and Rev. Anilal M. Jose, who brought their expertise as liturgists and church musicians to the preparations.

Asia Sunday

Asia Sunday is one of the major annual events in the life of the CCA, usually observed every year on the Sunday before Pentecost, which coincides with the founding of the CCA. The Asia Sunday celebration focuses on a particular theme and calls upon CCA's member churches and councils, as well as churches and ecumenical partners around the world to organise special prayers and worship services in commemoration of Asia Sunday.



*Observance of Asia Sunday–2016 at the Seoul Cathedral,
Anglican Church of Korea*

In 2016, Asia Sunday fell on 22 May centred around the theme, 'Korea: Towards Unity in the Bond of Peace', serving as an opportunity for churches and the ecumenical movement worldwide to renew their commitment to peace, reconciliation, and reunification of the Korean peninsula. The liturgy included a special Easter North-South joint prayer by the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) and the Korean Christian Federation

(KCF), with the liturgy and posters distributed to CCA members and ecumenical partners. The observance of Asia Sunday 2016 took place at the Seoul Cathedral Anglican Church of Korea, led by the NCKK, in the presence of Dr Mathews George Chunakara, the General Secretary of the CCA.



Asia Sunday themes and posters, 2017–2019

In 2017, coinciding with the CCA's 60th anniversary, the theme for Asia Sunday was aligned with the AMC–2017 theme, focusing on 'Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia'. On 15 October 2017, congregations from the member churches of the CCA and the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC) observed Asia Sunday, and the international participants of the Asia Mission Conference (AMC) attended services in various churches in Yangon. Additionally, several Asian churches in different countries also joined in observing Asia Sunday in 2017.

In 2018, Asia Sunday took place on 13 May and centred around the theme of 'Embracing the Differently-Abled and Upholding Their Dignity'. The aim was to raise awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities and foster a caring and inclusive community. CCA staff members participated in Asia Sunday at the Payap Church in Thailand, emphasising the importance of recognising the value and purpose of all individuals, including those with disabilities. Korean churches also observed Asia



Asia Sunday themes and posters, 2020–2022

Sunday, highlighting the need to respect and support one another, while differently-abled individuals shared their life experiences during the service. In Hong Kong, St. John’s Cathedral and other Chinese-language congregations joined in observing Asia Sunday by incorporating elements from the liturgy into their services. In Pakistan, the Asia Sunday liturgy was translated to Urdu and special prayer services were held in Gujranwala.

Asia Sunday fell on 2 June 2019. It focused on the theme, ‘Stateless and Trafficked People: Our Co-Pilgrims’. The CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara delivered a sermon at the Che-Lam (Chi-Nan) Presbyterian Church in Taipei City and highlighted the plight of stateless and trafficked individuals, emphasising their vulnerability and the need for urgent action. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK) organised special services, with liturgies translated into the local languages and distributed to member churches. The sermons delivered on Asia Sunday emphasised the importance of embracing those on the margins of society and advocating for their rights.

The theme of Asia Sunday 2020 was ‘God, Heal Us as We Are Vulnerable’ in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The online worship service, organised by the CCA on 24 May 2020, brought together ecclesiastical and ecumenical leaders from

twenty Asian countries and drew over 21,000 participants and viewers. Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey delivered the homily, highlighting the significance of observing Asia Sunday on Ascension Sunday and emphasising the need to re-examine faith, spirituality, relationships, and dependence on God in light of the pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis had exposed humanity's vulnerability and spiritual sickness and presented an opportunity to re-evaluate the importance of repentance and reliance on God. The facilitators of the online Asia Sunday service, representing member churches and councils of the CCA, offered prayers and reflections on the challenging realities faced during the pandemic.

The CCA organised a virtual Asia Sunday worship service on 16 May 2021, bringing together participants from across Asia and beyond. The theme of Asia Sunday–2021 was 'I am the Lord who Heals You and Restores Your Health', based on Exodus 15:26. Led by thirty ecclesiastical and ecumenical leaders from twenty-seven countries and regions in Asia, the online worship featured a specially prepared liturgy and was viewed by participants worldwide. The CCA General Secretary Dr Mathews George Chunakara emphasised the need to seek divine intervention amidst the vulnerabilities exacerbated by COVID-19. Bishop Dr Daniel Thiagarajah delivered the homily, encouraging the church to embrace new possibilities in ministry and bear fruit even in challenging times. The service featured liturgical prayers, a benediction pronounced by His Beatitude Dr Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, and participation from various member churches and councils of CCA. Services were also offered in parallel at the congregational level in Pakistan, South Korea, and Indonesia.

The CCA observed Asia Sunday in 2022 with the theme 'Christ's Love Reconciles and Unites'. The special observance was held before the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and emphasised the transformative power of Christ's love, calling member churches to prioritise reconciliation and unity.

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The liturgy included intercessory prayers for Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and the Philippines, countries facing challenging times. The CCA held the prayer service at its headquarters in Chiang Mai and encouraged its member constituencies to commit in prayer to the forthcoming WCC Assembly in Germany, which shared a focus on Christ's love, reconciliation, and unity.

Asia Sunday–2023 will be commemorated on 1 October 2023, during the 15th CCA General Assembly.

Renewed Ecumenical Impetus for Grassroots Ecumenism

The Asian ecumenical movement has faced challenges due to leadership crisis, denominationalism, and a lack of ecumenical formation among the younger generations. To address this, the CCA has taken proactive steps to revitalise the ecumenical vision in Asia. This includes engaging in member churches and ecumenical councils through various programmes, disseminating ecumenical materials, conducting solidarity visitations, and providing scholarships to nurture future ecumenical leaders. The CCA also emphasised wider ecumenical involvements and meaningful relations with churches outside traditional frameworks to bring them into the mainstream of the Asian ecumenical movement. Revitalising the ecumenical vision is considered a priority for the common witness and future of the ecumenical movement in Asia.

The Ecumenical Formation Seminar for Theological Educators was organised by the CCA at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College (KKBBS) in the Mae La Refugee Camp in Mae Sot, in November 2015. The seminar aimed to provide valuable insights and skills to 100 theological educators from Karen Baptist Churches. It featured lectures on ecumenism, biblical interpretation, Christian ministry, teaching skills, and organisational management, fostering a broader perspective and deeper insights for participants. The seminar encouraged a more

ecumenical approach to their theological thinking and Christian ministry and promoted collaboration among Bible/theological schools in refugee camps.

On Easter morning, 27 March 2016, the graduation ceremony of the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College (KKBBSC) was held at the Mae La refugee camp at the Thailand-Burma border. Ninety-eight students in the BTh course graduated and were felicitated in a bilingual ceremony in Karen and English. Most of the graduating students came from different churches in the refugee camps along the border, from the IDP (internally displaced people) camps, from the Karen villages in Thailand, and some were even born in the Mae La refugee camp itself. A three-member delegation of the CCA attended the meaningful ceremony.

An Ecumenical Theological Orientation Training took place at the Hill Light Theological Seminary for five days, bringing together thirty-five Bible school teachers from eight refugee camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border, in November 2017. Due to decreasing financial support, Bible schools face challenges in maintaining resources and developing theological education programmes and curricula. During the training, thirty-five participants engaged in sessions focused on developing theological education programmes and topics for the curriculum. They shared ideas and suggestions to enhance cooperation and support among the Bible schools, including the exchange of teachers and students, sharing teaching materials and library resources, and pursuing academic accreditation from internationally recognised higher education organisations. The training aimed to strengthen the Bible school's capacities and improve its theological education efforts within the constraints of limited human and financial resources.

The fourth ecumenical theological training for teachers from six Bible schools in refugee camps on the Thailand-Myanmar border was held by the CCA in November 2018. The training at Hill Light Theological Seminary focused on wider ecumenism, critical Bible

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readings, Karen Diaspora theology, and the future of theological education for Karen refugees. The participants expressed concerns about the closure of refugee camps and uncertainty about their future. KKBBSC was exploring building a new campus in Myanmar, but participants faced identity confusion and concerns about statelessness. The training aimed to support and encourage them in their journey, reminding them of Jesus Christ's solidarity with refugees and trusting in God's guidance.

In October 2021, the CCA in collaboration with the KKBBSC organised a contextual theology training for forty-two teachers, which focused on biblical interpretation, contextualising theological education, pedagogy methods, and curriculum development. In November 2021, the teachers from KKBC College had a follow-up meeting to share insights and conduct workshops on teaching curriculum for upcoming semesters.

Strengthening Family Values in a Changing Asia

The family structure in Asia has undergone significant changes, moving from joint families to smaller nuclear or extended families. While the joint family system has been a prominent feature in Asian societies, the twenty-first century has witnessed substantial changes, resulting in the decline of traditional family structures. The trend towards smaller nuclear families, extended families, or stem families has been observed even in rural areas. The emergence of the postmodern or permeable family reflects a more fluid and flexible dynamic, but it also raises concerns about the erosion of traditional values and the diminishing role of the elderly within the family.

Churches have traditionally played a vital role in providing pastoral care and support to their members facing familial and personal challenges. However, many churches struggle to cope with the mounting problems within their congregations and societies. The professionalisation of pastoral care limits its reach and effectiveness within the traditional culture and value systems of Asian societies. To address the changing family values

and cultures, the CCA has attempted to enable its member constituencies to respond to the crises facing the modern family and stressed the necessity for every congregation to play an active role in providing pastoral care and creating a supportive community that values mutual self-giving, respects the rights and dignity of each member, and promotes the well-being of both the family and society as a whole.

Christian Conference of Asia

Asia Regional Symposium

'Family Life and Family Values: Transitions from Tradition to Modernity'

Tuesday 3rd
to
Thursday 5th,
August 2021

13:00-17:00 PM
(1-5 PM) Bangkok
(Thailand) Time

Virtual Symposium









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 Fr. Emmanuel K. Pizarro Bangladesh	 Dr. Sarah Samuel India	 Dr. Wen-Fu Wang Taiwan	 Dr. Navith Dhanraj India

Resource persons of the online symposium on 'Family Life and Family Values: Transitions from Tradition to Modernity' held in August 2021

The CCA organised an online symposium on 'Family Life and Family Values: Transitions from Tradition to Modernity', with fifty representatives from Asia, in August 2021. The symposium addressed challenges faced by families due to changing family concepts and structures. Various sessions covered topics such as communication, cooperation, and autonomy within families, the role of churches in supporting families, biblical perspectives on family conflicts, and the impact of digitalisation on family life. Participants discussed strategies for family service and ministries, spiritual growth, and deliberated on issues like unemployment and domestic violence. The symposium aimed to develop practical approaches to mission of supporting families amidst societal changes and during times of crisis.

Asian Ecumenical Fellowship (AEF)

The Asian Ecumenical Fellowship (AEF) is a residential programme based at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai. It is designed to assist research scholars, ecumenists, activists, theologians, and ecumenical practitioners from churches, ecumenical organisations, and institutions who are from a wide range of disciplines and sectors. Asian Ecumenical Fellows are given opportunities to avail facilities and resources at the CCA headquarters for their study, research, and reflections.

In 2017, Rev. Dr N. B. Gladstone Robert from the Church of South India spent a week at the CCA headquarters to collect the historical articles and references to CCA's history. Dr Gladstone Robert published his book titled 'Mission and Ecumenical Concerns of the Christian Conference of Asia: The Reformulations Comprehending Socio-Cultural and Religious Life of the People of Asia'.

Rev. Diana Tana from the Methodist Church in New Zealand spent her one-month sabbatical in 2017 as an Ecumenical Fellow doing her pastoral research and study at the CCA library in Chiang Mai and providing leadership training and counselling to CCA staff members.

Rev. Kyoung Gyun Han, a mission co-worker of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand benefited from this Fellowship in 2017, using the facilities at the CCA library at the CCA headquarters.

Rev. Prince Devanandan of the Methodist Church in New Zealand spent a month in Chiang Mai as part of his sabbatical in 2019.

Mr Levi Vasconcelos Pinto of Igreja Protestante iha Timor Lorosa'e also availed the AEF in 2019 and spent time at CCA headquarters for his research related to the decolonisation of East Timor and ecumenical solidarity during the struggle of the people for East Timor's independence.



Building Peace and Moving Beyond Conflicts

In Asia, the absence or lack of peace extends beyond instances of violence and civil wars. It arises from the systematic denial of basic socio-economic, political, cultural, and environmental rights to a significant portion of the population, resulting in the negation of peace and the denial of justice. In the current global landscape, characterised by increasing interconnectivity, rapid technological advancements, and geopolitical shifts, Asian countries face the need to redefine their roles and navigate a range of multifaceted challenges at regional and global levels. While Asia has become a focal point in international affairs, the pursuit of peace and security in the region encounters diverse factors and stakeholders, both internal and external, that threaten stability and exacerbate conflicts. Although civil wars and armed conflicts have subsided in some Asian contexts, the persistence of ever-changing peace and security threats remains pervasive across several countries in the region.

Today, Asia confronts a myriad of complex social, economic, political, and security challenges. These include ongoing armed conflicts, persistent poverty, inadequate access to healthcare, economic exploitation, environmental degradation, militarisation, proliferation of arms, regional power dynamics, religious and ethnic tensions, communal violence, political unrest, human rights violations, and weak governance systems. Addressing these issues requires the active engagement of Asian churches as peacemakers, committed to consistent efforts that lend credibility to their voices within the global community. Churches are called upon to serve as instruments of God's purpose, taking concrete actions to promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

The objective for CCA's programme domain known as Building Peace and Moving Beyond Conflicts (BP) over the last eight years has been to mobilise Asian churches in fostering peacebuilding efforts. Firstly, it involves analysing the contextual factors that contribute to conflicts and developing effective methodologies for church participation in peacebuilding initiatives. This includes understanding the root causes of conflicts, the dynamics of societal divisions, and identifying strategies for resolving conflicts and building sustainable peace. Secondly, churches are called to support and assist in conflict situations, raising awareness through interreligious platforms and fostering dialogue and reconciliation among diverse religious and ethnic communities. By actively engaging in these processes, churches can contribute to the establishment of peaceful and inclusive societies in Asia.

Impact at a Glance

Total programmes: 46 • Total participants: 1,867

Accompanying Churches and Communities in Conflict Situations

Programmes organised: 15 • Participants: 408

Churches in Action for Moving Beyond Conflict and Resolution

Programmes organised: 2 • Participants: 58

Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia

Programmes organised: 4 • Participants: 101

Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence

Programmes organised: 19 • Participants: 979

Eco-Justice for Sustainable Peace in the Oikos

Programmes organised: 6 • Participants: 321

Accompanying Churches and Communities in Conflict Situations

With complex conflicts, post-war challenges, and recurring violence in different parts of Asia, peacebuilding is hindered and

poverty exacerbated. Significant barriers to sustaining peace, reconciliation, and healing still persist in Asia, which include political instability, weak governance, economic insecurity, and vulnerability to natural disasters.

Such situations have provoked Asian churches to raise questions about authentic peace, the interplay between peace and justice, factors contributing to reconciliation, addressing painful memories, and ensuring accountability for past injustices. These contextual questions arise in a multi-faith context characterised by both cooperation and resistance. As the struggles for peace persist, the CCA has assumed the responsibility of standing with churches and communities, offering support, and working together to build peaceful communities. The CCA has been steadfast in supporting its member churches and councils through pastoral solidarity visits, developing methodologies to support conflict-affected communities through churches and interfaith networks, and organising regional platforms to foster dialogue and collaboration in moving beyond conflicts and promoting reconciliation.

In October 2016, the CCA concluded a week-long Pastoral Solidarity Visit to Lahore, Pakistan, to stand with minority Christians and address religious intolerance and violence affecting not only Christians but also minority Hindus and Shi'ite Muslims. The three-member delegation engaged in fellowship, dialogue, and meetings with communities, churches, and organisations advocating for the repeal of the blasphemy law. The CCA pledged to support Pakistani Christians in their efforts to address religious persecution and advocate for justice, including highlighting their situation during the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council in 2017.

In May 2017, the CCA organised a Pastoral Solidarity Visit to Bangladesh in collaboration with the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB). The visit aimed to assess the conditions of ethnic and religious minorities, particularly focusing on violence against women, persecution of religious minorities,

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and the situation of stateless Rohingya Muslims in refugee camps. The CCA delegation engaged in discussions with various organisations, including the Church of Bangladesh, the National Human Rights Commission, and interfaith groups.

The CCA General Secretary and a CCA staff member undertook a pastoral solidarity visit to the United Arab Emirates in November 2017 to advocate for the rights of migrant workers. They held conversations with Asian diaspora member churches of the CCA in the UAE, and also surveyed different labour camps to see for themselves the actual conditions under which workers live, and learnt about the conditions and laws affecting migrant workers in the Gulf states.



CCA pastoral solidarity visit to West Papua in December 2017

The CCA organised a Pastoral Solidarity Visit to West Papua in December 2017 to express solidarity with the indigenous Papuans, understand their grievances, and advocate for their rights. The three-member delegations engaged with local stakeholders, witnessing firsthand accounts of human rights violations, discrimination, and limited autonomy efforts. The visit underscored the urgent need for international support in urging the Indonesian government to address human rights abuses and

engage in a just political dialogue with the indigenous Papuans for a more inclusive future.

A three-member delegation from the CCA visited Cambodia in February 2018 and learnt about contemporary issues affecting communities through firsthand field visits to different churches that were providing pastoral care to suffering people. The main issues observed were corruption, human trafficking, inhumane treatment of prisoners, ineffective human rights bodies of the government, arbitrary suspension of the right to association and peaceful assembly in Phnom Penh, a partial and ineffective judiciary, and limits on the freedom of expression and the press.

A few months later, the CCA conducted another solidarity visit to Cambodia. Led by the CCA General Secretary, who played a significant role in establishing the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC) and other committees, this visit aimed to rebuild and strengthen ties with the Cambodian churches. The CCA team, accompanied by KCC representatives, visited churches in Kampong Cham, Kampong Spoe, Phnom Penh, and Siem Reap, engaging in fellowship with church leaders from various denominations and independent churches in April 2018. The visit included paying respects to senior church leaders, engaging in video conversations, and organising fellowship gatherings with both senior and young church leaders, marking the beginning of renewed connections and future regular visits by the CCA to the Cambodian churches.

A delegation of thirteen members from the CCA undertook a pastoral solidarity visit to the labour camps in the UAE in June 2018. The delegation engaged in dialogue with 100 Asian diaspora church leaders and visited the Sonapur labour camps in Sharjah, witnessing the deplorable living conditions of Asian migrants. The visit provided valuable insights into the conditions, fears, aspirations, and demands of migrant labourers. As a result, the representatives of Asian churches were deeply moved by the plight of these workers and committed themselves to advocating for their dignity and rights.



WCC-PJP Asia Focus planning group meeting at the CCA Headquarters in September 2018

In September 2018, the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the CCA organised a planning meeting with leaders from churches and national councils of churches from nine Asian countries to develop the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP) Asia focus. The meeting addressed urgent issues such as ethnic conflicts, poverty, environmental degradation, political unrest, and human rights violations in the region. Country reports provided insights into the thematic focus of 'Building Peace and Human Dignity'. The consultative process aimed to listen to voices from the grassroots and establish a sense of ownership among member churches. It was proposed to organise Pilgrim Team Visits to several Asian countries, with the 2019 meeting of the PJP Reference Group. The CCA General Secretary expressed confidence in a successful PJP Asia focus and pledged CCA's support for its implementation.

The CCA hosted the WCC Pilgrim Team Visit (PTV) to the Myanmar-Thailand border, focusing on Karen communities affected by conflict. Thirteen members of the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP) reference group were accompanied by three CCA staff members in February–March 2019. The

team expressed solidarity with the affected persons, provided contextual analyses for the PJP reference group, and proposed concrete actions to strengthen churches' diaconal capacities. The visit brought global attention to the vulnerable persons and their longstanding suffering in the conflict area.

Under the theme of 'Building Peace and Human Dignity', the WCC PJP Reference Group held its international meeting at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai in March 2019. As a prelude to the PJP reference group meeting, five Pilgrimage Team Visits were organised jointly by WCC and CCA, and CCA facilitated organising those visits in collaboration with respective National Councils of Churches in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

On 21 April 2019, Easter Sunday, three churches and three luxury hotels in the commercial capital city of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and in Negombo and Batticaloa, were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings that killed 259 people and injured over 500. Immediately after this bomb attack, the CCA General Secretary undertook a pastoral solidarity visit to Colombo from 21–23 April. He met with leaders and representatives of CCA member churches, NCC Sri Lanka, and other interreligious leaders and discussed the necessity of interreligious efforts to overcome religious intolerance and promote communal harmony.

Following the 2018 Asia Regional Consultation on 'Migration and the Asian Diaspora', the CCA arranged meetings in Bahrain in May 2019 with various stakeholders, including migrant workers, church leaders, community service providers, and interfaith organisations. The aim was to support Asian diaspora churches and organisations in the Gulf region and foster relationships among them. The CCA expressed its commitment to supporting the Asian Diaspora Regional Council (ADRC) in Bahrain and establishing CCA chapters in each Gulf state to strengthen diaspora welfare efforts. The discussions highlighted the importance of unified efforts and the need for an overarching organisation to address the welfare needs of the diaspora community in Bahrain.

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The CCA General Secretary, accompanied by the CCA Treasurer and the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB), visited Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh in October 2019 to demonstrate the CCA's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities. The visit highlighted the dire conditions faced by the refugees, including landslides, floods, and water-borne diseases during the monsoon season. The Rohingya people, who fled Myanmar due to violent conflict, experienced genocide, torture, rape, displacement, and forced labour with severe curtailment of their rights. Bangladesh, unable to accommodate the large influx of refugees, emphasised its limited capacity and its non-signatory status to the UN Refugee Convention. The NCCB called on Asian churches to be aware of the Rohingya's plight and their desperate situation in the refugee camps. The CCA General Secretary emphasised the fact that the refugee crisis reflected a global failure to prevent a humanitarian disaster.

The WCC and the CCA jointly organised a Regional Consultation on 'Overcoming Challenges of Inequality in Asia: Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic', which was held online in June 2021. It highlighted issues of vaccine inequity, gender-based violence, injustice against indigenous people, and insecurities among youth. Using the PJP methodology, the various speakers discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for solidarity, practical actions, and global cooperation to overcome the crisis. They emphasised the importance of health equity, support for women and girls, protection of indigenous rights, and the need to address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on young people. Amidst a host of challenges and concerns, the Consultation expressed hope and called for collaboration, accompaniment, and collective efforts to recover and rebuild from the pandemic's effects. Over 300 people attended the virtual meeting.

A four-member ecumenical pastoral solidarity team on behalf of the CCA visited Sri Lanka in August 2022 and expressed



Ecumenical pastoral solidarity teams meeting with interfaith leaders in Sri Lanka, in August 2022

deep concern over the country's severe economic crisis and political turmoil. They observed high inflation, soaring prices of essential commodities, hunger, fuel, and medicine shortages, and a breakdown in law and order. The team met with various stakeholders and concluded that immediate international intervention was needed to assist Sri Lanka. The CCA pledged to share their findings and messages in international ecumenical platforms, including the WCC General Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany, in September 2022, to bring attention and assistance to prevent further human tragedy in Sri Lanka.

Churches in Action for Moving Beyond Conflict and Resolution

Religious intolerance, conflicts, and acts of terrorism in the name of religion have become prevalent in various Asian countries. In response, churches and councils must affirm that peacebuilding is a shared responsibility based on values such as peace, compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Being minorities in most Asian countries, churches need support in their mission of peacebuilding, working closely with other faith communities and civil society organisations.

Acknowledging the alarming trends of religious intolerance and ethnic violence, the CCA has emphasised the need for engagement and dialogue with people of other faiths for true reconciliation and peaceful societies in Asia. The right to freedom

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of religion cannot be pursued in isolation; the Church in Asia must prioritise the concerns and rights of other communities. The pursuit of peace requires active respect and reverence for the faith and human rights of all individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief.

In April 2017, the CCA and the Asia-Pacific Alliance of the Young Men's Christian Association (APAY) jointly facilitated a workshop on Interfaith Peacebuilding Perspectives as part of developing the Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) programmes and activities. The workshop was held in Singapore to review the objectives and achievements of the ICF and to set the goals and plan for the next three-year phase.

After two days of deliberation, the meeting ended with the stakeholders agreeing to embark upon implementing the following medium-term plans. This included the establishment of two Schools of Peace (SoPs) lasting for three months, the organisation of two mini-Schools of Peace for two weeks each at the regional level, quarterly thematic workshops in each of the four sub-regions of Asia, namely, Mekong, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and South Asia, seven national workshops, and an annual ICF Forum.



UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Dr Fernand de Varennes (centre) at the Asia Regional Consultation on 'Freedom of Religion, Rights of Religious Minorities, and Constitutional Guarantees in Asia'

The CCA organised a four-day Asia Regional Consultation on 'Freedom of Religion, Rights of Religious Minorities, and Constitutional Guarantees in Asia' in October 2021 which was attended by over fifty participants from across the region. The CCA General Secretary pointed out that the right to freedom of religion was often violated in Asia. Speakers discussed the politicisation of religion, specifying that conflicts were not 'religious' but rather represented struggles for power and control. The Consultation also focused on combating religious extremism, with faith leaders from different religions emphasising the importance of hospitality, respect, and acceptance as core values.

The Consultation also examined constitutional guarantees in Southeast and South Asia. Legal experts highlighted the shortcomings in interpreting and implementing provisions about the freedom of religion in Asian countries. The speakers emphasised the need for localised approaches based on cultural and local realities, as well as the presence of hidden spaces within constitutional provisions that could be utilised for greater protection.

A panel of experts comprising members of parliament, legal luminaries, human rights defenders, and religious leaders, discussed strategies for protecting the rights of religious minorities in Asia. They emphasised the importance of forming coalitions and building relationships with other stakeholders. The panellists proposed various approaches such as bringing religious leaders together to prevent extremist situations, pursuing rights-based dialogue for integral development, and using education to empower religious leaders and institutions.

The Consultation was an opportunity for the fifty participants to grasp the spectrum of religious freedom violations in Asia and advocate for stronger constitutional guarantees. It highlighted the importance of interfaith dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration to promote understanding and protect the rights of religious

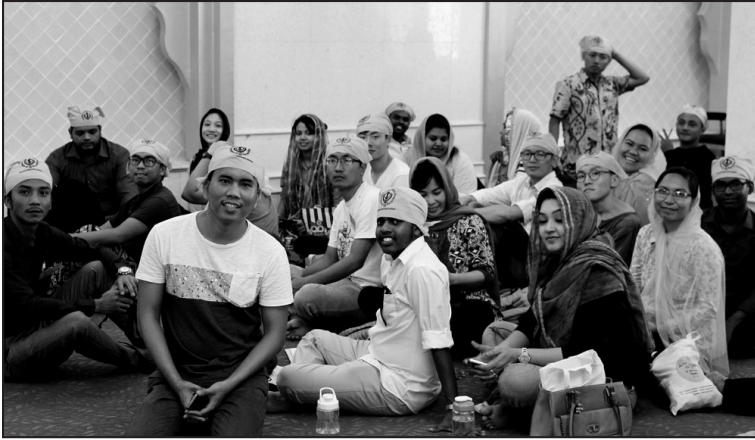
minorities. The experts proposed multi-pronged strategies and emphasised the role of faith communities themselves in advocating for change.

Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia

In order to foster a peaceful and harmonious Asia, it is crucial to nurture a new generation of peace activists who are committed to working towards transformational and structural changes. While young people may be susceptible to being drawn into conflict situations, they also possess the capacity to contribute significantly to peacebuilding, reconciliation, and the reconstruction of societies affected by conflicts. By embracing their roles as ambassadors of peace, youth in Asia can actively understand the value of living together harmoniously and further engage in promoting peaceful coexistence. The CCA's approach is grounded in an interfaith framework, acknowledging the rich tradition of religious harmony and coexistence that is deeply rooted in Asian societies for centuries.

The Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) initiative of the CCA aims to empower young people as catalysts for positive change and advocates for peace in conflict and post-conflict situations. By nurturing a new generation of peace activists committed to transformational and structural changes, YAPA fosters greater dialogue, understanding, and collaboration across diverse backgrounds. Embracing an interfaith framework, the initiative equips youth with essential skills in leadership, conflict resolution, and interfaith cooperation, enabling them to contribute to the resolution of conflicts and promote harmonious coexistence in Asia.

In June 2016, the first YAPA welcomed twenty-three young people representing eleven countries to the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai. Throughout the week-long programme, the young people delved into the essentials of peace with justice, conflict transformation, interfaith dialogue, human rights, and wider ecumenism, and crafted action plans for their own peace



YAPA–2016 students at the local Gurudwara in Chiang Mai, Thailand

projects in their home communities. They honed their abilities to identify and address conflicts in their contexts, spreading ecumenical ideals of collaboration across diverse generations, faiths, denominations, cultures, and ethnicities. A blend of theological insights and practical skills at the grassroots level made the training a well-rounded experience.

The CCA's second YAPA programme took place in May–June 2017 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It featured interactive sessions on non-violence, theological foundations of peace, skill development for grassroots peace implementation, and the fostering of inner peace. The YAPA–2017 theme focused on peace with justice in various religious traditions, bringing together twenty-five participants from Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu backgrounds from eleven countries. Presentations provided Asian perspectives on peace with justice, with field visits to diverse places of worship, fostering interfaith dialogue and understanding. The programme encouraged participants to develop action plans for community projects promoting justice and peace, which they implemented upon returning home. Continuous collaboration was facilitated through a closed social media group, enhancing learning and support among the young ambassadors even after they returned to their homes.

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YAPA–2018 held at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand in October 2018, empowered twenty-seven young participants from various religious backgrounds to become peacebuilders. The programme focused on ‘Peace with Justice and Human Security’ and covered topics such as principles and frameworks of peacebuilding, interreligious perspectives on peace with justice and human security, conflict resolution, grassroots conflict management, and non-violence as spirituality in action. Participants developed action plans for peacebuilding projects in their communities and committed to implementing them upon returning home. The diverse projects included initiatives in ecumenical peace formation, interreligious dialogue, violence prevention, environmental stewardship, and more, showcasing the participants’ dedication to fostering peace, harmony, and justice in their countries.



Students of YAPA–2022

In August 2022, YAPA took place at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with the participation of twenty-six young peace activists from diverse faith traditions such as Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, from across Asia. The programme focused on the theme of ‘Youth as Catalysts for Peace with Justice in Asia’ and included interactive sessions, thematic

presentations, and visits to deepen participants' understanding of peacebuilding. Topics covered religious and cultural identities, conflict mediation, non-violence, interfaith perspectives, and emerging geopolitical tensions in Asia. During the valedictory session, the participants presented a Statement committing to promoting peace, justice, and equality in their communities and beyond, with an emphasis on education for peace and the use of local wisdom for global harmony.

Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence

Violence against women is a pervasive issue in the Asia region, resulting in blatant human rights violations and causing immeasurable suffering for women and their communities. Despite progress in addressing gender-based violence, new forms of violence have emerged, and existing advancements are being undermined. The prevalence of violence against women cuts across all socio-economic groups and regions, hindering women's potential and impeding economic growth and development.

In Asia, violence against women takes various horrifying forms, such as physical abuse, sexual assault, trafficking, and harmful customary practices. The consequences are not only physical and psychological harm to women but also fractures in families and communities, compromised health, and restricted opportunities for women to fulfil their potential. The social and economic costs of violence against women are substantial, diminishing human capital, productivity, and poverty reduction efforts.

Religion and cultural constructs also influence the status of women and can perpetuate discriminatory practices. It is crucial for religious leaders, especially those from Asian churches, to recognise and address these roadblocks, providing resources and support to victims of violence, and also actively working with perpetrators to mitigate and prevent harm. The Christian Conference of Asia is actively engaged in promoting women's rights and dignity through its Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence (EWAAV) programme and aims to combat

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discrimination and violence through advocacy, capacity-building, and generating awareness of international instruments and agreements that protect women's rights.

Asia Regional



Participants of the Asia Regional Consultation on 'Women Building Peace and Transforming the World', November 2016

The CCA organised a Regional Consultation on 'Women Building Peace and Transforming the World' in November 2016, where representatives from churches and national councils of churches in Asia gathered to discuss strategies and action plans. The thirty-five participants who attended proposed integrating the network at local, national, and regional levels, organising campaigns to empower women as peacebuilders, conducting regional programmes on violence against women, observing important dates related to women's rights, and establishing a digital platform for information sharing and networking across Asia. It was at this Consultation that the CCA launched the Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence (EWAAV) programme. Through EWAAV, the CCA sought to create a network of women actively engaged in addressing violence against women and promoting a culture of prevention.

A three-day Consultation on 'Transforming the World and Building Peace' was organised by the CCA in Bangkok, Thailand

in November 2018, with twenty-eight representatives from the women's departments of CCA member churches and national ecumenical councils. The struggles of women at the grassroots combating violence were shared. The participants called for urgent actions to foster dialogue and understanding. Examples from Cambodia and Sri Lanka showcased women's efforts in peace advocacy and collaboration with civil society. Biblical-theological reflections on women in narratives like Ruth, Hagar, Deborah, and Vashti were discussed, emphasising the importance of rewriting their own stories of faith and witness. Participants urged churches to promote collaboration between women and men for gender equality and eliminating violence against women.

The banner for the virtual conference includes the following information:

- Organizer: Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)
- Event Type: Virtual Conference
- Date and Time: Thursday 21 May 2020, 12.00 -14.00 hrs. (Bangkok Time)
- Facebook Live icon
- Conference Title: **THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN IN ASIA: VITAL NEEDS AND POST-CRISIS RECOVERY**
- Section: **PANELLISTS**
- Panelists (9 total):
 - Mathews George (CCA)
 - Melissa Alvarado (UN Women)
 - Diana Tana (New Zealand)
 - Basil Fernando (Hong Kong)
 - Maya Dania (Indonesia)
 - Kyrie Kim (South Korea)
 - Sotheavy Srey (Cambodia)
 - Nirmala Gurung (YWCA)
 - D. Ilangasinghe (Sri Lanka)
- Call to Action: **REGISTER NOW**

Speakers of the Virtual Conference on 'The Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Asia: Vital Needs and Post-Crisis Recovery'

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCA initiated a series of webinars on related issues, including a virtual Conference on 'Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Women in Asia' in May 2020. The Conference brought together eighty participants via Zoom and garnered over 5,500 views on social media. Discussions highlighted gender inequality's deep flaws and the pandemic's disproportionate impact on women, addressing issues like

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security concerns, intimate partner violence, and the socio-economic challenges faced by women in the informal sector. Panellists emphasised gender equality integrating gender sensitisation into decision-making, and advocating for women's rights. The webinar aimed to promote solidarity, support marginalised women, and work collectively to overcome the pandemic's challenges, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

A subsequent webinar was organised on 'Impact of Growing Religious Extremism on Women in Asia' in December 2020. It featured panellists from the United Nations (UN), the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), and other international and church-related organisations. Discussions centred on grave challenges faced by women from religious minorities, such as physical and sexual violence, forced conversions, and honour killings. The Conference called for paradigm shifts in understanding gender roles, partnerships between stakeholders to protect women, and empowering women to prevent extremism. Speakers highlighted gender stereotypes in extremist ideologies and stressed the importance of law enforcement and media in protecting women's rights. Specific issues in India, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh were addressed, emphasising the need for education and human rights awareness. The Conference concluded with a call for stronger networks to combat religious intolerance in Asia.

On International Women's Day-2021, the CCA organised a webinar on 'Transformational Leadership of Women in Post-COVID-19 World', viewed by over 1,300 people. Panellists highlighted the need to empower women's leadership and build back better after the pandemic. They emphasised creating an enabling environment for women leaders, adopting multi-sector approaches, and including women in decision-making processes. The webinar showcased women's leadership during the pandemic, addressing gender inequalities, and preventing violence against women. Participants stressed the importance of storytelling to highlight the strength of Asian women and

discussed challenges faced by women leaders, especially young women, and the need for leadership training opportunities. The discussions aimed to bring about normative changes and challenge societal perceptions of women's roles.

The CCA held an online Regional Consultation in July 2021 on 'Ensure Gender Equality; Empower Women and Lift Up Humanity', which was attended by seventy participants. The speakers and participants stressed the importance of instilling hope and promoting women's empowerment through solidarity and inclusion, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Consultation focused on increasing women's participation in decision-making, aligning with the UN's SDGs, and exploring the role of gender equality in achieving the SDG-2030 Agenda. Discussions addressed challenges faced by women during the pandemic, economic justice, leadership development, and capacity-building. The Consultation aimed to break barriers and promote gender equality through aspirational narratives and inclusive opportunities.

Sub-Regional

The CCA organised a Sub-Regional Consultation in Bangkok in July 2017 on 'Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence and Building Peace'. It gathered twenty-nine church women leaders from South and Southeast Asia to challenge patriarchal norms, promote gender equality, and address violence against women. The Consultation included theological reflections, Bible studies with a gender lens, and discussions on contemporary issues affecting women in Asia. Participants highlighted the risk of violence faced by women, the negative impact on their well-being and society, and the vulnerability of domestic workers. The Consultation emphasised the need for gender-transformative education, effective implementation of laws, and collective efforts to promote a culture of peace and prevent violence against women in the region.

The CCA organised a South Asia Sub-Regional Consultation in Dhaka, Bangladesh in October 2019, in collaboration with

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the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB). The programme addressed emerging concerns hindering women's participation in God's mission of reconciliation and renewal, and convened under the theme 'Calling Women of Asia: Arise, Be Awake to Reconcile, Renew, and Restore the Creation'. Twenty-five women from South Asian countries participated, analysing regional and local contexts, and discussing issues such as extreme violence, cultural barriers, and discriminative practices. The Consultation empowered South Asian women to advocate for women's rights, finding inspiration from women characters in the Bible. It emphasised women's active engagement in creating a harmonious world and repairing broken communities.



*Participants of EWAAV South-Asia Sub-Regional Consultation,
November 2022 in Colombo, Sri Lanka*

A four-day South Asia Sub-Regional EWAAV programme on women's advocacy against violence was organised by the CCA in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in November 2022. Twenty-five participants from South Asian countries represented churches and ecumenical councils. The Consultation aimed to strengthen women's empowerment advocacy and promote collaboration among churches and women's organisations to combat violence against women. Key issues discussed included gender equality challenges, intersectionality, and contextual Bible study sessions. Participants developed advocacy plans and gained valuable insights into the current situation in their countries, fostering motivation and hope for their efforts toward gender justice and

liberation. The Consultation served as a platform for exchanging experiences and empowering participants in their ongoing struggles.

National Level: Bangladesh

The CCA and the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB) jointly organised a national-level Consultation and solidarity visit in June 2017. Sixty participants attended and discussed the importance of achieving gender equality and empowering women, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They emphasised the need to raise awareness about the SDG framework and means of implementation, develop mechanisms for women's empowerment, prevent violence against women, and prioritise gender equality in national, societal, and church agendas. The participants also highlighted the significance of education for girls in Bangladesh as imperative for societal progress. The participants further engaged in active discussions on re-reading the Bible and feminist theology. They expressed appreciation for the CCA's efforts in organising the national-level programme in Bangladesh that equipped women with the skills to interpret the Bible from women's perspectives.

National Level: Cambodia

Forty representatives from grassroots organisations in attendance at the national EWAAV Consultation in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, emphasised the importance of mobilising both men and women, within and outside the church, to collaborate and combat violence against women. Held in May 2018, the meeting aimed to initiate networks and coalitions of women in the church and society to address violence and promote peace with justice. Despite a high literacy rate in the country, women and girls still faced social discrimination, economic injustice, and limited opportunities, with violence impacting their well-being and the community's social fabric.

National Level: Laos

A National Consultation for fifty women leaders—pastors, church workers, and lay leaders—of the Lao Evangelical Church (LEC) was organised in Vientiane, Laos, in November 2017. This Consultation

was a follow-up to the Regional Consultation held in July 2017. The programme addressed issues of violence faced by women in the church and nurtured ecumenical and women's perspectives in their missionary work. The Consultation included theological reflections and interactive sessions on understanding gender and gender-based violence. Participants discussed women's leadership in the Bible, the impact of violence on women's well-being and participation in society, and the importance of mobilising church women for advocacy against violence at different levels. The Consultation was a platform for the Lao churchwomen to recommit and strengthen their ecumenical networks and partner with local communities and organisations to combat violence against women and promote peacebuilding in their communities.

National Level: Pakistan



International Women's Day–2017 meeting in Lahore, Pakistan

On International Women's Day–2017, the CCA and the Ecumenical Women's Fellowship of Pakistan organised an event at the Ecumenical Centre in Lahore, Pakistan, to celebrate women's empowerment. Over 150 women attended the event, which focused on the theme 'Be Bold for Change: Women Empowering Women'. A biblical-theological reflection highlighted stories from the Bible that showcased women empowering each other. An interfaith youth group presented an interactive dramatisation on the topic of honour killings, which encouraged participants to share their opinions and promote change in societal attitudes.

Discussions also took place regarding proposed amendments to the Christian Family Law and Divorce Act in Pakistan, which primarily impacted women. The importance of women's voices being heard and their needs being addressed through proper legislation and laws was also emphasised.

The Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence (EWAAV) programme initiated a campaign to create awareness of the health concerns of mothers on International Mother's Day in May 2017. The Ecumenical Women's Fellowship of Pakistan organised awareness sessions on breast cancer and cervical cancer on Mother's Day in different congregations in Lahore; these included the Naulakha Presbyterian Church, the Holy Trinity Church, and the Salvation Army. Throughout the month-long campaign, health awareness sessions were organised in different churches. Under the campaign, United Christian Hospital in Lahore offered discounted rates for different medical tests and health check-ups for women for one week. Community members were also encouraged to plant trees for their mothers on the last Sunday of May.

The '16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence' is a global campaign effort to combat violence against women and girls. It highlights the human rights abuse associated with such violence and encourages churches and ecumenical networks worldwide to unite in this struggle. As part of this campaign, the CCA through the EWAAV programme joined with the Ecumenical Women's Fellowship in Pakistan, introduced the year's theme 'Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women' to the Presbyterian Church's women's fellowship in Lahore, Pakistan, in November–December 2017.

As a follow-up to the 2018 EWAAV Consultation, a seminar on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse was organised by CCA jointly with St. Peter's Church, Lahore, Pakistan in July 2019. The seminar was attended by forty women who discussed the different forms of child sexual abuse, the psychological impacts

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of sexual abuse on children, and the legal frameworks in place to access justice. Search for Justice, a local child rights organisation, provided technical assistance. The seminar was arranged given the alarming rise in child sexual abuse and murder, especially that of a girl child in Pakistan's Punjab province. It was agreed that churches must realise the gravity of the issue, generate awareness among their congregations, and become a safe space for child victims of abuse.

A one-day training programme on Women's Rights and Advocacy was organised by CCA and held in Raiwind, Pakistan as a follow-up of the 2018 EWAAV Regional Consultation in August 2019. The programme was jointly organised by CCA and the Church of Pakistan Raiwind Diocese. The training sought to raise awareness among rural women about their constitutional rights and empower them to claim these rights for their upliftment. The discussions shed light on issues such as female infanticide, violent crimes against women, restrictions on mobility and freedom, and the limited decision-making power women have in areas like marriage, education, and employment. The training emphasised the importance of generating advocacy within this patriarchal context to bring about positive change.

National Level: Sri Lanka

The CCA and the National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka (NCCSL) organised a National Consultation in November 2017 to address violence against women in the post-war context. Twenty-five women from diverse ethnic groups gathered to analyse the causes and consequences of gender-based violence, mobilise church women for advocacy, and strengthen local ecumenical networks. Stories of discrimination and violence were shared, highlighting the need to challenge patriarchal structures, advocate for women's rights, and promote gender justice. Action plans were proposed to empower women, raise awareness, and foster gender equality within and beyond the church, emphasising the importance of theological and practical awareness to combat violence against women in Sri Lanka.

National Level: Timor Leste

EWAAV national programme in Dili, Timor Leste, in September 2022

The CCA and the Protestant Church in Timor Leste (IPTL) conducted a national EWAAV programme in Dili, Timor Leste, in September 2022 to address gender-based violence. The programme highlighted the severity and prevalence of domestic violence in the conflict-ridden country and covered topics on women's rights, challenges, and equal participation in God's mission. Despite legislative efforts, cultural practices and trauma contribute to the risks faced by women, which exacerbates intimate partner violence in the country. Timor Leste ranks 128th out of 187 countries on the UN Gender Inequality Index, with a high percentage (59 percent) of women experiencing intimate partner violence. The participants developed their own action plans to collaborate with churches and civil society organisations to advocate for women's rights and combat gender-based violence.

Eco-Justice for Sustainable Peace in the *Oikos*

Eco-justice goes beyond mere environmental concerns and encompasses a broader perspective that includes sustainable

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resource use, equitable economic development, and the fair distribution of wealth. It acknowledges the intricate interdependence of all living beings in maintaining a balanced and peaceful society. Unfortunately, the world faces significant sustainability challenges, with millions of people in poverty and experiencing stark inequalities in access to resources and opportunities. The consequence of unsustainable development practices can be devastating, contributing to natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, and even conflicts over scarce resources.

Eco-justice is intricately linked to social justice, recognising the inseparable relationship between environmental health and socio-economic justice. It advocates for an ethic that values both the well-being of the natural world and the dignity of human life, emphasising the inseparability of environmental and human rights. This perspective draws upon religious insights, scientific knowledge, and social, economic, and political experiences to foster a peaceful society that respects the intrinsic worth of all creation. Christian theology, in particular, acknowledges creation as a sacred space for humanity to dwell in peace and harmony, which places an immense responsibility on churches to prioritise eco-justice and promote ecological literacy. As a facilitator and supporter of Asian churches, the CCA actively engages in eco-justice initiatives, striving to raise awareness, encourage biblical and theological reflections, and conduct consultations and studies that contribute to developing concrete action plans for eco-justice. The ultimate goal is to equip church communities with the tools and knowledge needed to engage in sustainable practices and promote eco-justice as a means to sustain peace and harmony in the region and beyond.

The CCA and the Korean Christian Forum on Life-Giving Agriculture (KCFLGA) jointly organised a four-day Asia Regional Consultation on 'Towards Sustainable Development and Food Security in Asia'. The Consultation which was held in November–December 2016 prioritised nature and social justice, delving into topics such as eco-justice, sustainable development, GMOs, food security, and the right to food. Participants engaged in hands-on organic

farming experiences in a northern Thai indigenous community. Divided between two locations, the Consultation also included cultural presentations, exploring terraced land cultivation, and a homestay experience. Sixty participants from across Asia gained insights into food access, poverty, the risk posed by synthetic chemicals, and the significance of organic farming in uplifting marginalised communities. The Consultation aimed to foster eco-justice principles and commitment among participants.



*Ninth Global Energy Parliament (GEP) meeting hosted by CCA
in November 2019, Chiang Mai, Thailand*

The ninth Global Energy Parliament (GEP) was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in November 2019, under the theme 'Living in Harmony with Nature', gathering forty-five participants from diverse backgrounds, including Christians, Buddhists, and Hindus. Speakers highlighted the interconnectedness of life and the urgency to address climate change and disharmony between humans and nature. The GEP focused on practical solutions, such as bills related to interconnection, youth involvement in climate justice, women's contribution to eco-justice, sustainable development, water justice, afforestation, and self-sustained food production. The event aimed to promote harmony with nature, address the impact of human greed and underscore the importance of unity and shared values in tackling climate change.

The Eco-School 2019, organised by the CCA and the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Water Network, trained twenty-eight young participants on water, food, health, and climate change

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issues. The two-week programme held in November 2019 covered interconnected topics such as ecofeminism, sustainable farming, and water scarcity. Participants acquired skills in community mapping, advocacy, and teamwork while emphasising values like creation stewardship and justice. They planned volunteer community projects, including organic farming and awareness campaigns, expressing commitment to sharing knowledge and building social networks. The programme received praise for its organisation, knowledgeable instructors, and theological aspects, enriching the participant's understanding and commitment to addressing environmental challenges.



Participants of the Webinar on 'Will COVID-19 Worsen Food Insecurity in Asia?'

In May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCA organised a webinar attended by sixty people on Zoom, discussing the impact of food insecurity in Asia. Experts highlighted the challenges faced by the agricultural sector, including supply chain disruptions and reduced purchasing power. The webinar emphasised restructuring the food system and promoting sustainable farming practices to address insecurity. Insights from different countries showcased the need for collaboration, policy changes, and urgent attention to food security for vulnerable populations during times of crisis.

The CCA and the WCC jointly organised an online prayer service on World Food Day in October 2020, bringing together representatives from member churches and councils across Asia to address and pray for the alleviation of food insecurity around the world. The WCC and CCA General Secretaries emphasised collective action in the ‘Food for Life’ campaign and the importance of supporting sustainable habits to preserve the environment. Biblical reflections highlighted the interconnectedness between food shortages, human rights violations, and the ecological impact of industrialised food systems. The service provided a platform for reflection, prayer, and advocacy to combat food insecurity and promote sustainable agriculture while emphasising the significance of sharing resources and ensuring food accessibility for all.

World Water Day in March 2021 was commemorated by the CCA with a webinar on ‘Decreased Access to Safe Water: Challenges to Human Security’. Asia faces acute water-related problems due to climate change, urbanisation, and unplanned development. These challenges have resulted in water scarcity, reduced food production, supply chain disruptions, land and livelihood losses, migration, and heightened economic and geopolitical tensions. Experts from various UN agencies and intergovernmental bodies emphasised the need for community engagement and awareness to defend the right to water for all people. They also stressed the importance of sharing stories and best practices, joining information networks, and promoting behavioural changes in water conservation and pollution prevention. Specific issues in different Asian regions were addressed, and the webinar concluded with recommendations for churches to take action on equitable water access through educational materials, rainwater harvesting systems, and “Green Church” policies.



Prophetic Diakonia and Advocacy

Prophetic diakonia is a call to manifest practical love and care for those in need, while also uncovering the root causes of injustice and challenging prevailing social structures. It emphasises working towards conditions that promote peace with justice, human rights, and human dignity. This approach draws inspiration from the liberating and transforming power of the Gospel and follows the example of Jesus, who fearlessly confronted oppressive powers and principalities. At the heart of prophetic diakonia is the value of prophetic witness. It draws on the rich tradition of the Old Testament prophets who courageously critiqued and challenged unjust social norms and structures. Prophets spoke truth to power, regardless of how their message was received, calling attention to issues of justice, rights, truth, reconciliation, and healing amid brokenness.

Advocacy is a vital means of raising our voices on behalf of those we stand in solidarity with. It is a tangible expression of our belief in God's reconciling love for all creation, as revealed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through advocacy, Asian churches can address the political and public dimensions of injustice, seeking to uphold human dignity and the integrity of God's creation. It involves building awareness, analysing situations and emerging trends, promoting development and justice, educating on human rights, engaging in public advocacy, conducting policy research, and taking reflective action.

The objectives of advocacy are twofold. Firstly, it aims to empower Asian churches to effectively respond to social, economic, and political issues by embodying prophetic witness during times of brokenness and human need. Secondly, it seeks to coordinate and facilitate ecumenical advocacy at the national, regional, and global levels, addressing emerging issues in Asia while expressing solidarity and upholding human rights for the dignity of all individuals.

The CCA through its programme domain known as 'Prophetic Diakonia and Advocacy' has addressed several contemporary issues such as human rights, migration and statelessness, trafficking in persons, disability inclusion, dignity and rights of children, health and healing, good governance, and ecumenical diakonia over the past eight years, and has urged its member constituencies to embrace prophetic diakonia and engage in advocacy to become agents of transformation, working towards a more just and compassionate society based on the principles of the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus.

Impact at a Glance

Total programmes: 40 • Total participants: 1,339

Human Rights Advocacy

Programmes: 11 • Participants: 71

Migration, Stateless, and Trafficking in Persons

Programmes organised: 10 • Participants: 441

Asian Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network

Programmes organised: 1 • Participants: 36

Asia Advocacy Network on the Dignity and Rights of Children (AANDRoC)

Programmes organised: 7 • Participants: 260

Ecumenical Solidarity Accompaniment and Diakonia in Asia

Programmes organised: 5 • Participants: 186

Health and Healing

Programmes organised: 2 • Participants: 106

Good Governance

Programmes organised: 4 • Participants: 239

Human Rights Advocacy

Human rights advocacy is an integral aspect of the Church's prophetic diakonia in the Asian context. The Church's commitment to justice, compassion, and solidarity with the marginalised and oppressed drives its engagement in advocating for human rights. By standing alongside those whose rights are violated, the Church seeks to address the underlying systemic injustices that perpetuate their suffering. The complex dynamics of Asia, with its diverse cultures, religions, and political systems, present various human rights challenges. In response, the CCA recognises the importance of the Church's involvement in human rights advocacy. The CCA's consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) since 2003 allows it to address regional and international human rights issues. Through its Prophetic Diakonia programme domain, the CCA endeavours to bridge global and local realities by raising awareness and garnering support for human rights causes at the international level while drawing on the firsthand knowledge of human rights violations faced by local communities where its member churches and councils are present.

The connection between grassroots advocacy and global platforms strengthens the Church's prophetic diakonia, as it aligns with the call to seek justice and transformation throughout society, by engaging with the UN and other international bodies, the Church amplifies its voice and contributes to shaping human rights norms and mechanisms at the global level. The CCA's presence on international platforms provides a channel to address the region's complex human rights challenges collectively. Through its advocacy initiatives, the CCA empowers its member constituencies to work towards justice and human rights, promoting dialogue, solidarity, and support for local initiatives and causes. By continually advocating for human rights and social justice, the Church can reaffirm its commitment to prophetic diakonia and play a crucial role in promoting a more just and compassionate world.

A three-member delegation from the CCA participated in the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW) in New York, USA, in March 2016. They engaged in discussions, attended NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day, and participated in side and parallel events to raise awareness about the vulnerable situation of women in Asian countries. Through their participation, the CCA collaborated with other organisations and amplified the voices of faith-based groups in advocating for gender equality and justice.



CCA advocacy at the UN on the rights of Pakistani religious minorities during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland

The CCA participated in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2017. The CCA delegation, including representatives from Pakistan and other Asian countries, engaged in international advocacy against the persecution of Christians in Pakistan. They organised a side event titled 'Rights of Religious Minorities in Pakistan' in cooperation with the World Council of Churches, where they discussed the human rights situation and the challenges faced by Christian and other minority groups in Pakistan. Through these efforts, the CCA raised awareness among representatives of governments and NGOs about the harsh realities faced by religious minorities in the country.

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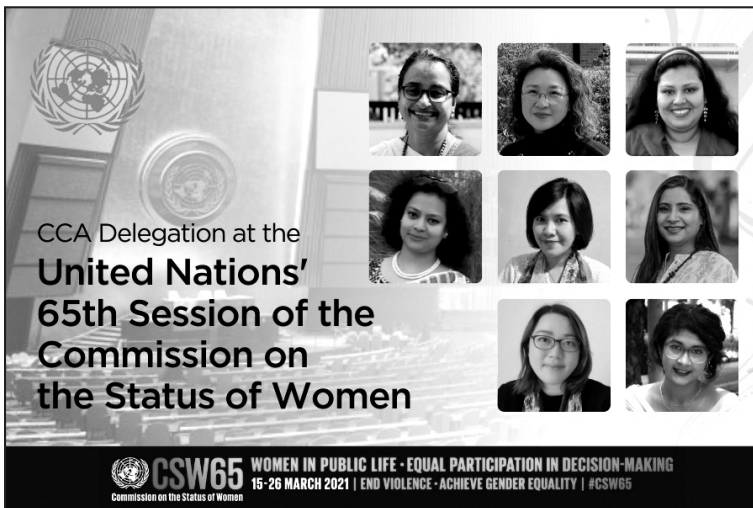
The CCA was part of the WCC's delegation at the World Health Assembly 2019. The 72nd World Health Assembly of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on Sustainable Development Goal 3: good health and well-being. In conjunction with the World Health Assembly, WCC also conducted a technical meeting on 'Strengthening churches' contribution to SDG 3,' which CCA programme coordinator Dr Ronald Lalthanmawia attended. The discussion focused on the global mapping of Christian health networks and facilities. The need for Churches to advocate healthcare through prevention, promotion, care, and support was evident, especially with regard to communicable and non-communicable diseases, and this could be done in line with successful models.

The CCA and the WCC jointly organised an Asia Regional Workshop in May 2019 on 'UN Human Rights Mechanisms: Application for Advocacy', welcoming twenty-one international participants from diverse sectors. The workshop aimed to equip them with knowledge and skills to advocate for human rights within the UN, exploring options for churches and councils in Asia to use UN mechanisms to improve human rights in their regions. The participants gained communication and advocacy skills, learnt to navigate the UN UPR website, and developed values of empathy and respect for diverse perspectives. The workshop received praise for its practical approach, fostering strategic thinking on raising awareness and church engagement in human rights work, particularly addressing minority rights, statelessness, and migrant rights with UN human rights instruments.

Later that month in May 2019, a CCA delegation visited the UN Women Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. The CCA has been actively engaging with UN Women at regional and international levels to advocate for emerging concerns of Asian women. The CCA delegation shared the work of the EWA AV programme, highlighting its impact in preventing violence against women and addressing gender inequality. The UN Women Campaign Coordinator recognised the similarities between the CCA EWA AV programme and the UN Women's activities to end violence

against women, suggesting the possibilities for collaboration and offering technical support and resource persons. They encouraged EWAAV networks in CCA's constituencies to engage with UN Women country offices and share their opinions on the Beijing+25 review for the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2020.

A meeting with the UN Women Desk was initiated as a follow-up of EWAAV's webinar on 'The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women' in June 2020, mainly to share CCA's advocacy programmes and activities under EWAAV and to seek possible ways for both parties to work together in realising the rights and dignity of women during the COVID-19 pandemic.



CCA Delegation at the United Nations' 65th Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW 65)

An eight-member delegation actively participated in the UN 65th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-65) online in March 2021, focusing on topics such as gender-sensitive policymaking, women's political representation, ending violence against women, and ecofeminism. Key conclusions drawn by the CCA delegation included valuing and encouraging the leadership of

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women in pandemic recovery, affirming church engagement and partnership with women and young people, fostering constructive dialogue and collective action, creating nurturing environments for women's leadership, empowering young people in decision-making, increasing women's representation in decision-making positions, and challenging barriers like gender-insensitivity.

The CCA submitted a written statement which was published as part of the documentation for the 2021 ECOSOC High-level Segment (HLS) with the theme 'Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic'. The statement focused on SDG 3, good health and well-being, urging UN member states to uphold their commitment to health as a human right for all, enhance vaccine access through sharing, and engage with affected communities and faith-based organisations for pandemic recovery.



CCA's Institute on Human Rights (IHR)–2021

In May 2021, the CCA organised the Institute on Human Rights (IHR), a two-week training programme for twenty-five young church workers and theologians. The programme covered

various topics related to human rights advocacy and Christian perspectives on human dignity. Experienced resource persons facilitated the training, which included sessions on international human rights instruments, the role of the church in promoting human rights, and specific human rights issues. The participants expressed appreciation for the programme, stating that it deepened their understanding of human rights as a Christian duty and pledged to uphold human dignity in their work. The IHR–2021 provided valuable knowledge and skills for young church workers and theologians to promote and defend human rights within their contexts.

The CCA’s written statement was accepted at the 66th Session of the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women, addressing the theme of achieving gender equality in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction. The statement emphasised the colossal harm caused by climate disasters in Asia and highlighted the gender impacts and challenges faced by women and girls. It made four policy recommendations to UN member states, including enhancing climate financing for Asian developing countries, promoting a just transition to green economies, increasing women’s representation in decision-making bodies, and addressing the unique needs of different groups of women affected by climate change.

The CCA’s written statement was accepted at the 67th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2023. The statement, which formed part of the documentation of CSW-65, focused on the gender digital divide, online violence against women, and the gender employment and skills gap in Asia. The statement made seven key policy recommendations, including bolstering digital literacy, encouraging STEM initiatives, collecting gender-specific data, promoting the digital commons, and integrating gender equality into policies.

Migration, Statelessness, and Trafficking in Persons

The moral and ethical responsibility of Asian churches and national Christian councils to address migration, statelessness, and

trafficking in persons stems from our commitment to upholding human dignity and seeking justice. These critical concerns impact vulnerable individuals and communities in sending countries, necessitating the Church's active engagement and advocacy to protect the rights and well-being of those affected. Migration often involves individuals seeking better economic opportunities or fleeing conflict and persecution, leading to challenges such as exploitation, human rights violations, and social integration issues. Statelessness, on the other hand, deprives individuals of legal identity and access to essential services, making them susceptible to exploitation and marginalisation. Additionally, trafficking in persons, or modern-day slavery, further exacerbates the vulnerability of those affected, subjecting them to forced labour, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse.

Asian churches have a unique role in tackling these pressing issues. With extensive networks and resources, they can play a crucial role in raising awareness, providing support, and advocating for policy changes to address migration, statelessness, and trafficking. The CCA, as a platform for collaboration and coordination among churches, catalyses collective action, enabling churches to come together, share experiences, and develop comprehensive strategies to address these interconnected challenges. The CCA's efforts to prioritise these issues aim to mobilise the contributions of its member churches and councils towards the realisation of human rights, the protection of vulnerable populations, and the promotion of justice and compassion. By actively involving Asian churches in addressing migration, statelessness, and trafficking in persons, improved legislation and practices can be fostered to safeguard the rights and well-being of migrants, stateless individuals, and victims of trafficking. The collective efforts of churches, facilitated by the CCA, can create a powerful force for change, addressing the root causes and consequences of these challenges in the region and contributing to a more just and compassionate society.

In November 2015, the CCA organised a Regional Consultation titled 'Churches Together for Joint Action against Trafficking

of Women and Children' in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to raise awareness and engage Asian churches in combating trafficking. Seventeen participants from eleven countries attended the three-day Consultation, analysing the situation in different sub-regions of Asia and developing strategies for national, regional, and global advocacy to protect victims of human trafficking and prevent vulnerability. The Consultation included daily devotions and interactive Bible studies to build theological foundations and deepen participants' understanding of human trafficking issues while sharing good practices and helping with creating action plans for combating trafficking and mobilising churches for advocacy.



*Participants of the Asia Regional Consultation
on 'Criminalisation of Human Trafficking and its Impact on Women
and Children', November 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand*

An Asia Regional Consultation on 'Criminalisation of Human Trafficking and its Impact on Women and Children: Towards an Ecumenical Advocacy' was organised by the CCA in November 2016. The Consultation aimed to sensitise thirty-five participants to the causes and impacts of forced migration and trafficking, equip them with advocacy strategies, and empower churches and communities to combat these issues. The Consultation featured worship, biblico-theological reflections, and presentations by governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the Royal Thai Police Academy, the Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women (GAATW), and the United Nations High

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Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). The sessions encouraged active participation and included open forums, discussions, and workshop activities. The programme concluded with participants presenting their action plans, which were further refined by CCA facilitators. An evaluation revealed a significant increase in participants' knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards promoting and respecting the rights of trafficked individuals, highlighting the effectiveness of the Consultation in enhancing awareness and fostering practical engagement to combat human trafficking.



Participants of the Consultation on 'Rights and Dignity of Manual Scavengers and Advocacy on Abolition of Manual Scavenging in India', April 2017, in Chennai, India

The CCA, in collaboration with the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) and the Church of South India (CSI), organised a Consultation in April 2017 to discuss the abolition of manual scavenging in India, uniting forty-eight participants from diverse backgrounds. Manual scavengers bravely shared their stories of discrimination, igniting a call to action within the Indian churches to advocate for their rights. The keynote address by Bezwada Wilson, a Magsaysay Award winner and founder of the Safai Karmachari Aandolan, urged churches to combat casteism and manual scavenging, while workshop sessions focused on effective advocacy strategies. The gathering culminated in a Communique that denounced manual scavenging as a symbol of caste-based discrimination and vowing support for the empowerment and rehabilitation of manual scavengers. The participants committed themselves to engaging in international advocacy and promoting

respect and dignity for all, reflecting the Church's role in defending human rights and combating social injustices.

In October 2017, the CCA with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), the Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), and the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC) organised a Consultation on 'Migration and Labour Trafficking in Asia: A Call for Decent Work' with forty participants attending. The focus was on strengthening collaboration between churches, civil society, and migrants in order to combat labour trafficking. Country reports shed light on trafficking situations in Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Consultation featured powerful testimony from Mary Jane Veloso's mother, a trafficking victim, and concluded with a Communique calling for solidarity among various groups to address labour trafficking and promote decent work in Asia.

The CCA organised an International Consultation on 'Asian Diaspora in the Arabian Gulf and Human Trafficking' in November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, addressing the situation of migrant workers in the Arabian Gulf region. It was attended by fifty participants from Asian countries and Gulf states' Asian diaspora representatives. Discussions centred on labour migration, trafficking, and the mission of churches to the Asian diaspora. The Consultation stressed competent church responses to forced migration and trafficking, advocating for migrant workers' dignity and rights, and called for collective action and increased awareness. The participants adopted a Communique promoting a "Theology of the Human Family" and hospitality towards strangers, while also appealing for an ecumenical platform for Asian diaspora churches in the Gulf region.

In May 2019, the CCA and the WCC jointly organised an International Consultation on 'Statelessness and Human Trafficking: Prevention, Reduction, and Protection'. The Consultation aimed to equip the forty-one participants who attended with the knowledge of international laws on human rights and create faith-based action plans to address statelessness

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and trafficking. The Consultation had two key objectives: to equip participants with the knowledge of international laws about fundamental human rights and to formulate a plan of action with clear short-term goals as a common faith-based response to statelessness and human trafficking. Experts from different organisations gave short presentations and case studies. The resulting Communique called for Asian churches to offer pastoral care, skill training, employment, and legal aid to stateless people. Collaboration with government, UN agencies, and civil society was urged to sustain advocacy efforts.



*Resource persons of webinar
on 'Plight of Migrant Workers amidst the COVID-19 Crisis'*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCA organised a webinar to address the plight of migrant workers in April 2020. The webinar, which was attended by 100 participants on Zoom, aimed to provide an overview of the situation faced by migrant workers in Asia and the Arabian Gulf states, hear from organisations working to address the challenges and express solidarity with the workers. Panellists from different regions shared their insights. In South Asia, workers faced challenges such as being stranded and lacking assistance during lockdowns. In East Asia, migrant domestic workers experienced worsened conditions due to social unrest and lack of privacy. In Southeast Asia, Filipino workers faced

volatility and insecurity, while Burmese workers in Thailand suffered due to insufficient support. In the Arabian Gulf states, the governments of Bahrain and the UAE provided support but cramped living conditions posed challenges amidst the requirements to maintain social distancing and isolation. The speakers highlighted the vulnerability of migrant workers and the overwhelming demand for assistance from churches.

The CCA organised a virtual Conference with fifty participants that focused on the theme 'Towards Wider Partnerships for Combating Trafficking in Women and Girls amidst COVID-19' in October 2020 to discuss the need for systemic change supplemented with grassroots efforts to tackle the menace of human trafficking, especially among women. Concerns were raised about predators exploiting the "new normal" for criminal operations. Speakers highlighted emerging trends in human trafficking, the role of women law enforcement officials in crime detection, the challenges posed by COVID-19, and the changing tactics of traffickers, especially in online spaces. Country-specific experiences were shared, including the Philippines' battle against live-stream sexual abuse and Indonesia's concerns regarding law enforcement inadequacies. Best practices were also discussed, such as gender- and victim-centred training, strengthening collaborations between counter-trafficking task forces and civil society, community awareness-building, targeting of transnational trafficking networks, and economic empowerment of vulnerable individuals to prevent victimisation.

The CCA organised a two-day Asia Regional Consultation on 'The Effects of COVID-19 on Trafficking in Persons' in March 2022 to address the crisis of trafficking in persons during the pandemic and to empower member constituencies to engage in prevention and response. Over thirty participants from Asia attended the online programme, discussing the two primary forms of trafficking, namely, sexual exploitation and forced labour. The Consultation facilitated the sharing of innovations and best practices in anti-trafficking efforts during the pandemic.



Participants of the 'Diakonal Ministry of the Church in Developing Effective Responses to Combat Human Trafficking in Asia', September 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

After a series of online events, the CCA organised an in-person Asia Regional Consultation on 'Diakonal Ministry of the Church in Developing Effective Responses to Combat Human Trafficking in Asia' in September 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event brought together thirty participants from member churches, faith-based organisations, and civil society movements to develop short-term and long-term strategies for anti-trafficking ministries. The Consultation aimed to sensitise Asian churches to advocate for trafficking victims' dignity and rights, providing effective advocacy measures, and strategies for prevention, rescue, restoration, integration, and relief efforts. The participants urged their churches to increase commitments to anti-trafficking ministries, strengthen partnerships, and provide pastoral care for communities in sending and receiving countries. They acknowledged the Church's unique position in working with perpetrators and contributors to trafficking, emphasising the role of community members involved in human rights violations.

Asian Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network

In Asia, approximately 650 million people have some form of disability, and this number is expected to increase due to various factors. However, persons with disabilities often face exclusion

from education, employment, and social services, leading to high rates of poverty and abuse. Churches in many contexts have not properly recognised people with disabilities, further isolating them from the community. To address this, the CCA initiated the Asian Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network (AEDAN) to promote the dignity of disabled individuals through consultations and programmes. The goal is to create a caring and inclusive community where all people, including those with disabilities, can exercise their spiritual gifts.



Asia Regional Consultation on 'Disabled People; Strength in Weakness and Quest for Dignity' held in conjunction with the Asia Mission Conference in October 2017, in Yangon, Myanmar

In October 2017, the CCA organised an Asia Regional Consultation on 'Disabled People; Strength in Weakness and Quest for Dignity: Ecumenical Advocacy in Asia' in conjunction with the Asia Mission Conference in Yangon, Myanmar, in October 2017. The Consultation, with thirty-six participants, focused on promoting the dignity and fullness of life for people with disabilities. Theological reflections on disability, the state of disability inclusion in Asia, and the missiological understanding of advocacy and inclusion were discussed. The participants suggested the setting up of a core group that would advocate for the rights and dignity of individuals with disabilities in churches, and a Communique to Asian churches urged the creation of inclusive and caring communities.

Asia Advocacy Network on the Dignity and Rights of Children (AANDRoC)

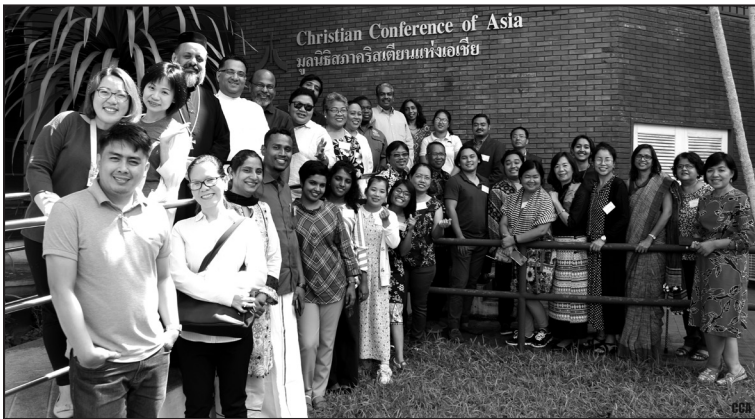
Childhood is a critical time for building the foundation of life, and children need to be protected, nurtured, and given opportunities to thrive. Unfortunately, millions of children in Asia face various forms of exploitation, including violence, abuse, neglect, and poverty. Issues such as sexual exploitation, trafficking, forced labour, and conflicts further jeopardise their well-being and dignity. Limited access to education, healthcare, and nurturing environments hampers their development. Regrettably, many churches in Asia have remained silent on these pressing issues.

Recognising these challenges, the CCA initiated the Asian Advocacy Network for the Dignity and Rights of Children (AANDRoC) programme. This programme aims to empower Asian churches to advocate for the rights and dignity of children. By addressing the realities faced by children and providing a platform for advocacy, the CCA seeks to ensure that churches actively engage in protecting and promoting the well-being of children in Asia. This initiative is crucial in creating awareness, mobilising resources, and fostering a secure atmosphere where children can live with dignity and fulfil their potential, ultimately contributing to a better future for all.



Participants of Asia Regional Consultation on 'Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Children' in September 2018, in Jakarta, Indonesia

The AANDRoC itself was established as the outcome of the Asia Regional Consultation on 'Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Children' in Jakarta, Indonesia, in September 2018. The Consultation aimed to sensitise Asian churches to children's rights, addressing concerns like displacement, poverty, education, healthcare, and disability. It encouraged advocacy work, coalitions with civil society, and children's meaningful participation. The Consultation's Communique called on churches to engage in prophetic witness, develop policies for children's participation, collaborate with stakeholders, and promote child protection training, along with awareness campaigns about digital impacts and child-friendly programmes in local congregations. Sixty participants from fifteen countries attended.



Participants of the joint WCC-CCA programme on 'Child Rights Protection and Advocacy to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation' in October 2019 at the CCA Headquarters

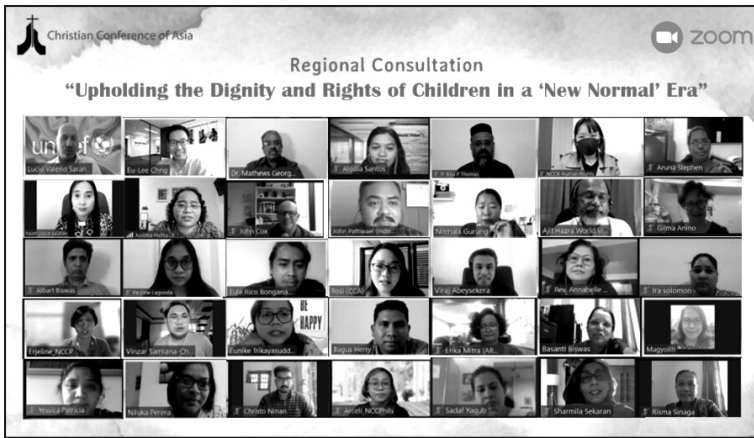
A joint WCC-CCA programme was organised on 'Child Rights Protection and Advocacy to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation'. The timely initiative in October 2019 brought together thirty-eight participants from thirteen countries in Chiang Mai, Thailand, including representatives from UNICEF, to address the increasing sexual exploitation and violence against children in Asian countries. The Consultation also focused on the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of

the Child, and the role of churches in advocating against child sexual abuse and exploitation. Participants shared experiences and best practices, emphasising creating safe spaces and child-friendly policies in churches. The Consultation also called for strengthened legal frameworks, engagement with industries, and civil society involvement to protect children's rights, culminating in action plans and a Communique urging churches to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation.



Virtual Conference on 'Upholding the Rights and Dignity of Children amidst COVID-19 Crisis'

Nearly 2,600 individuals attended the CCA's webinar on 'Upholding the Rights and Dignity of Children amidst the COVID-19 Crisis' held in May 2020. One of the webinars in the series initiated by the CCA, it highlighted the profound impact of the pandemic on children's well-being, including socio-economic consequences and mitigation measures. The mental health of children, the increase in abuse and exploitation (both online and domestic), and economic consequences leading to child labour, trafficking, early/forced marriage, and homelessness were also highlighted. Recommendations included adjusting church services, providing pastoral care, and collaborating with other organisations and with governments for advocacy to ensure the safety and empowerment of all children.



Online Consultation on 'Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Children in a New Normal Era' in April 2021

The CCA organised a virtual two-day Consultation on 'Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Children in a New Normal Era' in April 2021, with thirty-eight representatives from various organisations and churches participating. The Consultation discussed challenges to child rights protection, safe education, and pastoral ministries, emphasising child safeguarding mechanisms, remote assistance, and collaborations among community leaders. Recommendations included prioritising children's health and safety, supporting innovative educational programmes, protecting children's online privacy, and establishing partnerships for their well-being. The participants also stressed the importance of church ministries, psychosocial support, safe spaces, and interventions for abused and vulnerable children, emphasising Asian churches' active engagement in promoting children's rights and meaningful partnerships.

The CCA, Christian Service Agency (CSA), National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) Women and Children Concerns, and All India Sunday School Association of India (AISSA) organised an in-person meeting in Bengaluru, India, in November 2021 to address the urgent issue of children in church ministry. Twenty-one participants, including pastors, educators, and church

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activists, gathered to reflect on the challenges faced by children in the Indian context. The Consultation focused on advocating for the rights and dignity of children in India and concluded with discussions on drafting a policy for child safeguarding.

The CCA and the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) conducted a joint National Consultation in December 2021 in Bogor, Indonesia, to address common issues and challenges faced by children and their families in the context of the pandemic and digitalisation. The Consultation, attended by twenty-five participants comprising pastors, Sunday School teachers, and children, emphasised the importance of digital literacy for ministry and child rights protection. Presentations were made on topics such as the prevention of sexual violence and the role of information and communication technology in digital literacy. Small-group discussions were held to share church initiatives and formulate recommendations, including the adoption of child protection policies, promotion of child-friendly churches and digital literacy, and building networks with relevant bodies.



Participants of the national ecumenical AANDRoC Consultation in the Philippines in March 2022

The CCA and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) organised a national ecumenical Consultation in March 2022 in Manila, the Philippines, on upholding the dignity

and rights of children. Thirty-one participants from member churches and organisations expressed concern over children's dire situation amid poverty, hunger, unemployment, and the COVID-19 pandemic. They committed themselves to promoting child protection policies, awareness-raising, educator training, psychosocial services, children's meaningful participation, and child-friendly programmes in congregations. Ayla Sol Rentillosa, a child advocate, emphasised working together to create a child-friendly and safe society. Workshop sessions identified gaps and emphasised the need for empowering churches and communities in order to enhance child rights promotion. Recommendations included partnerships with local governments, organisations, and ecumenical engagement in child rights programming and advocacy.

Ecumenical Solidarity Accompaniment and Diakonia in Asia

The CCA has been striving to promote ecumenical solidarity, accompaniment, and diakonia in Asia as an essential component of the Church's prophetic witness. The CCA recognises that true diakonia goes beyond providing aid and charity, it entails being prophetic, transformative, and justice-seeking. Ecumenical diakonia shifts from a charity model to one that enables people to become genuine partners in God's mission.

Amidst Asia's complexities and diversities, ecumenical solidarity, accompaniment, and diakonia are essential to foster unity and cooperation among churches, enabling them to address social, economic, and political challenges collectively. By standing in solidarity with marginalised communities, the CCA encourages churches to move away from a charity model that perpetuates dependency and instead embraces diakonia as a means of empowerment and transformation. This shift involves equipping church workers with the necessary training and skills to engage in diakonia that promotes justice, human rights, and the dignity of all individuals. By working together as partners, churches in Asia can effectively address the root causes of social injustices,

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advocate for marginalised communities, and strive for a more equitable and just society in line with God's mission.

After the devastating earthquake that ravaged Nepal in April 2015, the CCA organised a roundtable meeting on 'Asian Ecumenical Accompaniment in Nepal' on 30 June and 1 July 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. With over 8,790 casualties and 22,300 injuries, and damages worth USD 7 billion, the natural disaster was one of the worst faced by Nepal in recent times. The intention of the visit was to facilitate a roundtable meeting on ecumenical accompaniment in the country in the post-earthquake situation. The meeting was attended by the National Council of Churches in Korea, Salvation Army, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Council of Churches in Indonesia, Hong Kong Council of Churches, Church of Christ in Thailand, and National Council of Churches in Nepal.



Participants of the CCA-WCC Training on 'Ecumenical Diakonia and Development' in December 2019 in Chiang Mai, Thailand

The CCA and the WCC jointly conducted a training programme on prophetic diakonia in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in December 2019. Forty-one participants from member churches and ecumenical agencies explored the Sustainable Development Goals, the church's diaconal ministry, health, women and children, and organisational management. The training aimed to contextualise the church's role in sustainable development, promote resource

exchange, and enhance ecumenical diaconal engagement. The sessions emphasised decent work, economic growth, and collaboration between churches and development agencies. Participants identified key issues and developed strategies for human resource development. The training sought to create a network for ongoing collaboration and learning in ecumenical diaconal work.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Timor Leste implemented a lockdown strategy to control the spread of the virus, which resulted in an economic crisis and extreme poverty. To provide immediate assistance to the most vulnerable, the Protestant Church in Timor Leste (IPTL) carried out relief work in May–June 2020 with support from the CCA, Uniting World of Australia, and the Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ. IPTL distributed emergency relief packs of food and essential supplies to households and churches across five cities in Timor Leste. The assistance provided by CCA was deeply appreciated by IPTL, as it not only offered financial support but also demonstrated sincere care and love.



*Asia Regional Consultation on
‘Ecumenical Diakonia, Church’s Response to Sustainable Development
Goals in Asia’, October 2022 at the CCA Headquarters*

The CCA and the WCC once again jointly organised a Regional Consultation on ‘Ecumenical Diakonia, Church’s Response to Sustainable Development Goals in Asia’ in October 2022 at the

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CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Consultation, which brought together thirty-five participants, aimed to explore the integration of SDGs in the diaconal work of Asian churches. Different sessions touched upon the theological and practical aspects of diakonia, peoples' participation in achieving the SDGs, and stewardship and accountability in ecumenical diakonia. Representatives from various Asian churches and ecumenical organisations shared their experiences and insights, emphasising collaboration, network building, and resource mobilisation. They stressed the need for strict accountability, innovative approaches to self-sustainability, and capacity-building in local churches and ecumenical organisations. They also recommended mapping human resources, enhancing collaboration, and focusing on diaconal ministry as a priority in the future.



Participants of the Asian Church and Ecumenical Leaders' Conference, May 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia

The CCA organised the Asian Church and Ecumenical Leaders' Conference (ACELC) in Jakarta, Indonesia, which was attended by 100 Asian ecclesial and ecumenical leaders. The second part of the high-level summit in May 2023 focused on ecumenical diakonia and ecumenical accompaniment. Diakonia was discussed as being intrinsic to the life and work of the church. It was determined to be as important as worship and witness. However, the world today was seeing a weaponisation of diakonia as a means of dominance and dependence. A truly authentic diakonia involved more than just the giving of material items or money but entailed taking upon oneself the suffering of others and participation in the struggle for social justice. Sessions examined the capacities of Asian churches for strengthening diakonia, diakonia as a prophetic witness and participation in the

struggle for peace with justice, effective models of partnership in witness and service, and biblical-theological reflections on diakonia as service for humanity and diakonia as solidarity and accompaniment. A Communique released at the end of the high-level historic meet of ecumenical and ecclesial leaders reflected a renewed commitment from the participants to strengthening ecumenical diakonia in Asia, including the proposal of a common platform to synthesise regional diakonal efforts that would operate under the aegis of the CCA.

Health and Healing

In the Asian context, churches play a significant role in promoting health, healing, and wholeness within their communities engaging in addressing public health challenges and promoting community well-being. The church's involvement in healthcare has been identified to extend beyond spiritual support to individuals and encompasses a holistic approach to physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Churches often establish health clinics, hospitals, and healthcare centres to address the healthcare needs of marginalised people and underserved populations. These institutions not only offer medical services but also focus on health education, prevention and promotion, and empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health.

Churches collaborate with local and international organisations to implement initiatives that address issues such as HIV and AIDS, maternal and child health, mental health, substance abuse, and so on. Churches can also serve as advocates for equitable healthcare access and policy changes to improve the overall health outcomes of their communities. However, of late there has been an increasing trend towards the privatisation of Christian health institutions, which is leading to a distortion of the original intention to serve the health needs of all segments of society.

The CCA through its health and healing programmes has been trying to mobilise Asian churches and councils to re-examine their public health ministries and integrate faith with healthcare, to

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contribute to the overall well-being and wholeness of individuals and communities, and offer a holistic approach to health that encompasses the body, mind, and soul.



*Participants of the webinar on
'The Right to Health amidst the COVID-19 Crisis' held in May 2020*

The CCA organised a webinar on 'The Right to Health amidst the COVID-19 Crisis' in May 2020, inviting experts and fifty-six participants from various Asian countries to discuss the impact of the pandemic on health as a fundamental human right. The webinar highlighted the vital role played by churches and faith communities in Asia in complementing government efforts and providing health services and humanitarian aid. It emphasised the point that securing the right to health goes beyond access to healthcare and includes addressing the determinants of health and eliminating discrimination. Collaboration among affected communities, governments, civil society, faith-based organisations, and intergovernmental agencies was seen as crucial in overcoming the pandemic.

In line with raising awareness on health and COVID-19 issues, the CCA organised an online Consultation on 'Towards Vaccine Equity amidst COVID-19 Surge in Asia' in July 2021. It was attended by over fifty participants from churches and church-related

organisations. The Consultation emphasised the importance of universal health coverage and access to vaccines, highlighting the need for preventing transmission, protecting essential health services, promoting mass vaccinations, ensuring equitable access to vaccines worldwide, and countering misinformation. The Consultation also highlighted the role of faith-based institutions in complementing government efforts by addressing fear and hesitancy, providing services, and reaching remote communities. However, challenges in vaccine access existed due to regulatory barriers, limited production capacity, and import regulations. Participants called for agreements that prioritise the benefit of all people, rather than the profits of a few, to ensure the well-being of all God's people in the long run. Understanding the scientific background and demystifying myths about vaccines were also highlighted as crucial for faith communities to change their perspectives.

Good Governance

Good governance is of vital importance in churches. It involves the responsible and transparent management of resources, decision-making processes, and adherence to ethical principles. Good governance in churches ensures accountability, fosters trust, and promotes the effective fulfilment and realisation of their mission.

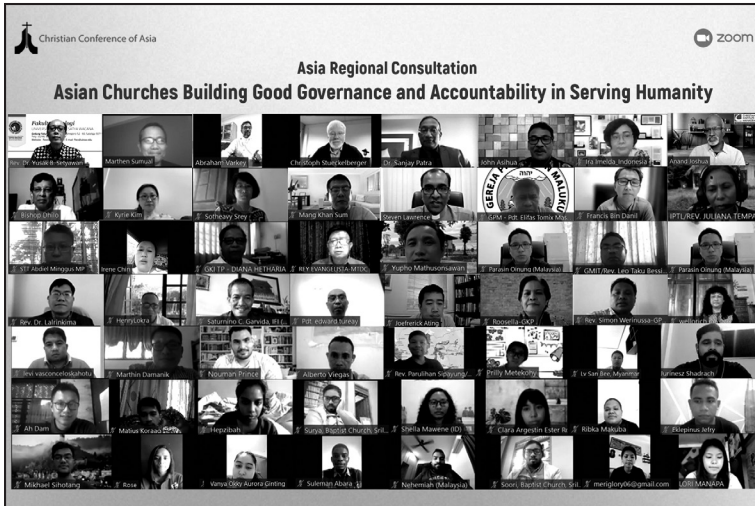
Fostering good governance in Asian churches is a key priority of the CCA. Through its good governance programmes, the CCA has encouraged its member constituencies to create mechanisms for transparency and accountability, such as regular reporting and financial audits, to ensure that resources are managed responsibly. Promoting ethical conduct and integrity among church leaders and members is essential for maintaining the credibility and trustworthiness of the institution.

The CCA organised an online training programme on 'Good Governance for Churches and Related Organisations in Asia' in



Participants of the online Training on Good Governance for Asian Church Leaders in November 2020

November 2020. The training was attended by twenty specially invited church leaders and thirty-six students of the concurrent Asian Ecumenical Institute. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of church leaders and students in areas such as theological reflection, principles and ethics, human resource management, self-assessment, and qualitative improvement in church organisations. It emphasised the importance of effective governance systems, accountability, transparency, and leadership development in churches. It emphasised the core principles of good governance and explored the Christian approach to management, emphasising values and principles derived from scripture. Participants engaged in discussions on networking and partnership, emphasising the biblical imperative of love, unity, and diversity in the body of Christ. They also focused on staff capacity-building, recognising it as a key driver for adapting to change and qualitative improvement in church organisations. The training encouraged participants to develop action plans and commit to implementing good governance practices in their local contexts.



Participants of the online Asia Regional Consultation on 'Asian Churches Building Good Governance and Accountability in Serving Humanity' held in November 2021

In November 2021, the CCA organised an online three-day Consultation on 'Asian Churches Building Good Governance and Accountability in Serving Humanity'. The event brought together forty-eight participants, including church leaders, representatives from member churches, Christian institutions, and students from the Asian Ecumenical Institute. The programme aimed to equip participants with principles of stewardship and accountability, emphasising leadership, probity, integrity, and love as essential qualities for churches. The Consultation emphasised the need for churches in Asia to comply with international standards of regulation while upholding fundamental Christian values. Sessions on Christian leadership values in management and human resource management emphasised the incorporation of biblical values, personal growth, and the recognition of each individual as a valuable asset for organisational success. The event also provided checklists for maintaining accountability at personal and organisational levels, focusing on factors such as clarity of rules and regulations, compliance with financial procedures, and the establishment of internal control systems. The Consultation concluded with participants discussing opportunities for applying

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the learnings in their contexts and suggesting collaborative actions for establishing good governance systems. They recommended that the CCA provide training and resources on good governance and affirmed their commitment to these principles in their own capacities and mission work.



Participants of the special Consultation on 'Towards Theological Education on Good Governance and Integrity Leadership', November 2022 at the CCA Headquarters

A special Consultation on 'Towards Theological Education on Good Governance and Integrity Leadership' was organised by the CCA in November 2022 at its headquarters in Chiang Mai. Thirty-five participants comprising heads of theological institutions came together to focus on incorporating principles of good governance into theological curricula, so as to equip future church leaders with management skills and accountability as stewards of God's oikos. The Consultation highlighted the importance of training theological students in good governance and integrity leadership from the beginning of their studies. It emphasised the need to address corruption and promote ethical practices in churches and related institutions. Participants discussed strategies to overcome corruption at individual, interpersonal, and institutional levels, and emphasised the theological basis for promoting good governance. A core group was formed to develop a curriculum related to good governance, and a Communique was prepared by eminent theologians and heads of theological institutions.

The CCA organised the Asian Church and Ecumenical Leaders' Conference (ACELC) in Jakarta, Indonesia, which was attended by



Sessions in progress at the Asian Church and Ecumenical Leaders' Conference, May 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia

100 Asian ecclesial and ecumenical leaders. The first part of the high-level summit on 1–3 May 2023 focused on key principles of good governance and integrity leadership in churches and church-related organisations.

Discerning the applications of the principles of good governance, the participants deliberated upon the relationships between stewardship, leadership, and creation care. At its heart, good governance was about sustainability and effectiveness, empowering church leaders to serve God's mission to the best of their abilities. Good governance ensured effective processes and big-picture policies, strong organisational culture and performance, compliance with the law and appropriate risk management, financial control and chief officers' selection, communication with stakeholders, and strategy formulation and approval.

The participants also explored the possibilities of the implementation of consensus decision-making as a suitable methodology in Asian churches and church-related organisations, beginning with the CCA itself which was to implement consensus decision-making at its forthcoming General Assembly. Another key theme under discussion was integrity leadership which exemplified servanthood, sacrifice, and selflessness. A Communique released at the end of the programme included a commitment from the leaders present to implement and mainstream the principles of good governance in the functioning of their churches and organisations.



Special Project: Action Together to Combat HIV and AIDS in Asia

With over 2.2 million people living with HIV and AIDS in Asia, urgent attention is needed to tackle the epidemic's medical, social, economic, and developmental impacts. Limited access to prevention, treatment, and care services remains a significant challenge. High-risk populations, including sex workers, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs, often face stigma, discrimination, and legal barriers that hinder their access to essential services. Additionally, inadequate sexual education and awareness contribute to risky behaviours and a lack of knowledge about prevention methods. Cultural norms and social stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS also play a crucial role in perpetuating the epidemic. Fear of discrimination and social exclusion prevents individuals from seeking testing, treatment, and support, further exacerbating the spread of the virus. Moreover, migration patterns, particularly labour migration, contribute to the transmission of HIV as individuals often face unsafe working conditions, limited access to healthcare, and engage in risky behaviours away from their support networks.

Recognising the gravity of the situation, governments, NGOs, and faith communities have formed collaborations and contributed towards combating HIV and AIDS in Asia. Faith communities, particularly Asian churches, have a significant role to play in fighting the HIV epidemic in Asia. As trusted and influential institutions within their communities, churches have the power to shape attitudes, promote awareness, and provide support to those affected by HIV and AIDS. The CCA, over the past eight years, has actively worked with member churches and councils as well as the wider faith communities to overcome the HIV and AIDS epidemic and pave the way for a healthier future for all.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) is dedicated to enhancing the capacities of its members to be inclusive and relevant to people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) and establish HIV-competent churches and communities across Asia. The initiatives have been streamlined under the special Action Together to Combat HIV and AIDS in Asia (ATCHAA) programme.

Impact at a Glance

Total programmes: 60 • Total participants: 2,568

Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS Education in Theological Colleges and Seminaries

Programmes organised: 3 • Participants: 82

Capacity-building

Programmes organised: 29 • Participants: 1,255

Strengthening Networks and Collaborations

Programmes organised: 16 • Participants: 824

Advocacy

Programmes organised: 12 • Participants: 407

Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS Education in Theological Colleges and Seminaries

The Church plays a crucial role as an inclusive community that fosters love, dignity, and freedom from stigma. Seminaries and theological colleges run by churches prepare future leaders to understand the impact of HIV and AIDS on individuals, families, and society. Seminaries and theological colleges have the opportunity to instil in their students a spiritual foundation of empathy and compassion, along with a sense of humanitarian advocacy and practical assistance. This specific focus and training are crucial because the students undergoing ministerial training will become future leaders of various congregations. Equipped with this knowledge and mindset, they will be better prepared to

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accompany and support those affected by HIV and AIDS through a compassionate approach rooted in theological reflection and Christian spirituality, ultimately promoting life and well-being.

The CCA recognises the importance of collaboration with theological seminaries and colleges through theological associations such as the Senate of Serampore, the Association for Theological Education in South-East Asia (ATESEA), and the Association of Theological Schools in Indonesia (PERSETIA), among others. Working together, the CCA and these associations aim to provide training and workshops for lecturers in Asia, educate spiritual communities and students on HIV and AIDS issues, and integrate these concerns into various aspects of theological education curricula. By engaging with these institutions, the CCA seeks to foster a comprehensive approach that addresses the theological, educational, and practical dimensions of combating HIV and AIDS within the faith community.



Training workshop on HIV and AIDS for lecturers of theological seminaries, October 2015, in Jakarta, Indonesia

The CCA conducted a training workshop in collaboration with the Association of Theological Schools in Indonesia (PERSETIA) and the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) in Jakarta, Indonesia, in October 2015. Thirty-seven participants from twenty-three theological seminaries (PERSETIA members) attended the training

programme. The programme comprised presentations on HIV and AIDS from biblical, ethical, and pastoral perspectives, Bible studies, sharing experiences from the participants, and dialogues with key affected populations (KAP). In-depth presentations were made on interfaith perspectives, medical aspects, and human sexuality issues by eminent resource persons. A curriculum based on the biblical, pastoral, ethical, and alternative aspects of HIV and AIDS was developed by the participants with the objective of mainstreaming and integrating HIV and AIDS advocacy into the curriculum and syllabi of Indonesian theological seminaries.



Strategic Programme Planning meeting for the ATCHAA project, January 2016

A Strategic Programme Planning meeting was convened at the CCA headquarters in Thailand in January 2016, where a team of twelve HIV and AIDS experts from India, Myanmar, Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Switzerland gathered to design a comprehensive four-year project (2017–2020) called ‘Action Together to Combat HIV and AIDS in Asia’ (ATCHAA). Guided by the theme of the CCA’s 14th General Assembly (“Living Together in the Household of God”) and the vision of an AIDS-free Asia, the project aimed to foster inclusive churches and faith communities, reduce stigma and discrimination, intensify HIV prevention efforts, provide comprehensive services, and promote partnerships and coordination with stakeholders. The

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project would also seek to create enabling environments within churches and faith communities to address human sexuality effectively and ensure no one is left behind.

A seminar/training and workshop on ‘Theological-Interfaith Perspectives on HIV and AIDS’ were conducted in November 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It was attended by thirty-three participants from seven theological seminaries (ATESEA members) in Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, CCA’s member churches, social workers, representatives of HIV and AIDS advocacy organisations and rehabilitation centres, as well as by representatives of different religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. The training and workshop aimed to raise awareness and incorporate HIV and AIDS issues into the curriculum of theological seminaries. Presentations and discussions covered various aspects, including biblical, ethical, and pastoral perspectives, interfaith dialogue, medical implications, human rights, and human sexuality. The participants collaborated to develop a curriculum that integrated education about HIV and AIDS into the syllabi of ATESEA member seminaries. The seminar enhanced the participants’ understanding of the global, regional, and local contexts of HIV and AIDS, equipping them with the skills to integrate and mainstream these issues into their teaching and educational activities.

Capacity-Building

Capacity-building among various groups within churches is vital in responding effectively to HIV and AIDS from a Christian perspective in Asia. By equipping church workers, women, young people, and others with knowledge and resources, they can become agents of change in their communities. The CCA has implemented diverse capacity-building programmes at the international, national, and local levels, deepening participants’ understanding of the theological, ethical, and compassionate aspects of HIV and AIDS. This empowers them to provide spiritual guidance, support, and counselling, promoting healing, reconciliation, and human dignity restoration for affected individuals and families.

Additionally, these efforts focus on education, advocacy skills, and access to healthcare services, enabling informed decisions about sexual and reproductive health and addressing gender inequalities to reduce vulnerability.

Particular attention has been given to engaging young people in capacity-building initiatives. Over the past eight years, the CCA has invested in and included young participants to prevent, care for, and support those affected by HIV and AIDS. By nurturing peer educators, advocates, and community leaders, these programmes challenge societal norms, reduce stigma, and encourage health-seeking behaviours. The CCA believes that empowering young people will contribute to ending the HIV epidemic, benefitting from their unique insights and perspectives in the fight against the disease.

Fifty-three participants from different Christian NGO networks working on HIV and AIDS issues attended a 'Workshop on HIV and AIDS for Christian NGOs in Thailand'. The workshop was conducted in March 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, by the Church of Christ Thailand AIDS Ministry (CAM) and supported by the CCA. The workshop enabled the participants to develop a common understanding of the HIV and AIDS ministry, share best practices, and work together on a common platform.

The CCA, in collaboration with Igreja Protestante Iha Timor Lorosa'e (IPTL), conducted a skill-building training on 'Holistic Approach to HIV and AIDS'. The Training was held in Dili, Timor Leste in April 2016 for thirty-five participants comprising pastors and church leaders, youth, and women leaders, and six resource persons. Exposure trips allowed all participants to visit government and NGO shelters in Dili, as well as engage in dialogue with affected and infected people. They also learnt how to develop networks and refer HIV cases in their respective districts and local churches to the proper agencies. From PLHIV, the participants received insights on how they can work together for the prevention and reduction of stigma and discrimination in the community.

The CCA, in collaboration with the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC), organised a skill-building programme on 'HIV and AIDS

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Programme Management’ in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in July 2016. The training, attended by thirty-five participants including pastors, church leaders, youth and women leaders, and interfaith groups, focused on Sustainable Development Goals related to HIV and AIDS. Inputs from UNAIDS representatives and NGOs covered various topics, including programme planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, HIV case management, resource mobilisation, treatment accessibility advocacy, and communications skills for social marketing. The programme also included theological reflections, worship, and group discussions to develop action plans based on participants’ own country contexts.



National HIV and AIDS Awareness Training on Voluntary Counselling and Testing in August 2016, Paro, Bhutan

In collaboration with the National Council of Churches in Bhutan (NCCB), the CCA organised an HIV and AIDS awareness training on Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) in Paro, Bhutan, in August 2016. Twenty-nine participants, primarily young people from different parts of Bhutan, attended the programme. Topics covered ‘Understanding HIV and AIDS’, ‘Reproductive Health’, ‘Voluntary Counselling’, ‘Confidential Testing’, and ‘Pastoral Counselling’. Through interactive methods such as discussions, games, and group work, the participants developed action plans. As ‘HIV and AIDS Advocacy Ambassadors’, they were determined to share the prevention message and maintain the low prevalence of HIV and AIDS in Bhutan.

Tsheyang Dema, a young female participant from Thimphu, stated, “This is the first time my friends and I are attending an

awareness-building training on HIV and AIDS that uses a friendly methodology for young people, where we can openly discuss, play games, and learn in an easy and comfortable way. I promise to share this awareness information with my friends through social media to share what I have learnt here.”

The Training of Trainers for Peer Educators for youth and women on ‘HIV and AIDS and Reproductive Health’ took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in December 2016, with ten participants from northeast Asian countries, such as Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The training aimed to enhance the participants’ knowledge of HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and reproductive health, while also developing their interpersonal communication skills to share this information with their peers. Despite coming from ‘conservative’ theological backgrounds where discussing sexuality was considered taboo, the participants committed to creating awareness of HIV and AIDS and reproductive health among their peers and advocating for more open-mindedness and dialogue among their church leaders and parents.



*Participants of Experts’ Workshop on Development of
Module on Churches’ Effective Response to HIV and AIDS in Asia,
March 2018*

In March 2018, the CCA organised a workshop titled ‘Workshop on Development of Module on Churches’ Effective Response to

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HIV and AIDS in Asia' to create an advocacy module for churches and ecumenical councils in the region. Experts from various organisations participated, identifying strengths to opportunities for churches in addressing the issue. The resulting module covered awareness, stigma reduction, prevention, care, support, treatment, outreach, and inclusiveness. Contextual Bible studies and best practices presentations showcased the church's role in being inclusive and innovative in tackling HIV and AIDS. Through the module, churches would assess their efforts, create action plans, and implement comprehensive responses to combat HIV and AIDS effectively. The workshop fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange among participants, exemplifying the commitment to promoting awareness, reducing stigma, providing care, and advocating for those affected by HIV and AIDS in the Asian context.



Group discussions at the 'Skill-building for HIV Facilitators on Churches' Effective Response to HIV and AIDS in Asia', March 2018

A skill-building workshop titled 'Skill-building for HIV Facilitators on Churches' Effective Response to HIV and AIDS in Asia' later that month in March 2018 brought together nineteen participants from six countries to Chiang Mai, Thailand. The

workshop included a knowledge quiz, discussions on HIV and AIDS, an overview of the situation in Asia and the Pacific, and an exposure visit to partner organisations engaged in AIDS ministry. Pre- and post-test questionnaires revealed participants' desire to learn more about vulnerabilities, human sexuality, and gender-related topics in relation to HIV and AIDS within churches. Post-training, participants felt better equipped to conduct workshops and expressed a commitment to engaging their communities in combating HIV and AIDS. The workshop served as a platform for capacity-building and networking, empowering participants to address the challenges posed by HIV and AIDS in their respective communities.



*Participants of the Youth Motivation Programme in April 2018,
in Manado, Indonesia*

The CCA organised a Youth Motivation Programme as a pre-event of the Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA) in April 2018. It aimed at educating eighteen young people on HIV and AIDS-related issues and empowering them as agents of change. The programme included group assignments, activities, and discussions, such as transforming a Bible passage into a movie, pre-tests, knowledge quizzes, and appreciative inquiry exercises. A participant from Indonesia shared his experience of living with

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HIV, inspiring others of the same age. The workshop also addressed stigma and discrimination through a stigma tree exercise and familiarised participants with HIV and AIDS terminologies. The event concluded with feedback from participants and closing worship, reaffirming their commitment to responding effectively to HIV and AIDS in Asia.

Twenty-six prospective facilitators of HIV and AIDS advocacy from churches and related organisations in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan came together for a skill-building workshop organised by the CCA in Kathmandu, Nepal, in June 2018. The country director of UNAIDS Nepal shared the HIV and AIDS situation in South Asia and praised the CCA's faith-based workshop for contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Participants engaged in a participatory learning process, sharing their work experiences, and committing to actively involve their churches and communities in supporting PLHIV.

The CCA and the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC) organised a workshop on Churches' Effective Response to HIV and AIDS, with fifty participants from various member churches of MCC and CCA in Yangon, Myanmar in July 2018. Discussions focused on the churches' indifference to engaging with HIV and AIDS, MCC's ministry, and collaborations with positive groups and NGOs. UNAIDS Country Office personnel and government representatives shared the national situation and church intervention pathways. Exposure visits to various locations further emphasised the importance of peer support. Participants highlighted the significance of everyone's involvement in church responses to HIV and AIDS, emphasising the importance of church leaders' attitude towards PLHIV. Action planning aimed to facilitate churches in their future response to the epidemic.

The CCA in partnership with the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB) conducted a three-day Workshop on HIV and AIDS Awareness for Churches in Bangladesh at CCDB Hope Foundation in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in November 2018. The workshop was attended by thirty church leaders from different

churches and associate members of NCCB from across the country. With ecumenical worship, Bible studies, skits, knowledge quizzes, discussions, stigma tree mapping, and appreciative enquiries, the participants were empowered to respond to HIV and AIDS through their local contexts and developed action plans for future work.

In December 2018, the CCA and the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC) jointly organised a national youth training programme in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in December 2018, bringing together thirty-one Christian youth from Cambodia to develop their role in responding to HIV and AIDS in the country. UNAIDS Cambodia representatives emphasised the vital role of faith-based organisations in sustaining positive responses at the grassroots and within communities. The participants improved their knowledge about HIV and developed empathy for PLHIV. They highlighted the significance of contextual Bible study to reach out to PLHIV in spiritual and holistic ways. The programme equipped them with specific actions to help PLHIV in their communities and emphasised prevention and awareness among the young people they interact with.



Participants of the Regional Skill-Building Workshop on HIV and AIDS Advocacy, March 2019

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A regional skill-building workshop was organised in March 2019 at the CCA headquarters for twenty-two participants from various professions across Asia. Contextual Bible studies enabled them to understand the church's role in supporting PLHIV. Interactive sessions updated participants on HIV and AIDS developments, and exposure visits to local organisations provided firsthand experiences with PLHIV stories and prevention, treatment, and support efforts. Participants emphasised collaboration and the commitment of governments, private sectors, and communities in combating the epidemic. Action plans were developed for implementation in their churches and communities, with follow-up activities planned to strengthen the churches' contributions to ending the epidemic at various levels.



Group work at the 'Young People at the Centre: Taking the Lead in HIV Advocacy' programme, June 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal

'Young People at the Centre: Taking the Lead in HIV Advocacy' was the theme of a youth motivation programme co-organised by the CCA and the National Council of Churches in Nepal (NCCN) in Kathmandu, Nepal, in June 2019. It brought together thirty-five young participants from across the country to raise awareness

about HIV and its national impact. Participants actively engaged in creative group work, contextual Bible interpretation, and real-life situation analysis, stepping out of their comfort zones to become channels of learning. They developed an action plan to reach churches in rural areas, advocating for testing, treatment, care, and support for PLHIV. The youth, recognising their role as change agents, affirmed their commitment to promoting prevention and providing healing for those affected by HIV, particularly PLHIV, as they identify themselves as part of the vulnerable population.

Forty-five young Cambodians affirmed their integral role in church and society at the youth motivation programme organised by the CCA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in July 2019. The training focused on building their capacity for advocating HIV and AIDS issues and nurturing their faith to realise a vibrant and dynamic church. The young people saw themselves not just as future leaders but as leaders of today, envisioning contributing to Cambodia's ever-changing society. Emphasising the importance of reflecting and relating to the wider faith community, they recognised the need for continuous education, particularly for young people vulnerable to HIV.

The CCA, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), and the Kalipunan ng Kristiyanong Kabataan sa Pilipinas (KKKP: Ecumenical Youth Council) conducted an Ecumenical Youth Consultation on 'HIV, Human Sexuality, and Gender Justice Advocacy' in Cebu, the Philippines, in September 2019, with twenty-seven young people from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao provinces. Emphasising the importance of embracing PLHIV and gender minorities, the workshop included orientations on HIV vulnerabilities, stories of individuals with different sexual orientations, and research findings on queer faith. Best practices of localised faith-based responses and community-based screening initiatives were shared, and an onsite HIV screening and exposure visit was organised. The participants recognised the need for protracted education on HIV at the grassroots to combat stigma. Using specialised tools, CCA-ATCHAA motivated the participants to engage in ministries related to HIV, human

sexuality, and gender justice, leading to action planning where they pledged to educate more people on HIV and SOGI.



Participants of the workshop on 'Asian Ecumenical Women Responding to and Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy', November 2019 in Hsinchu, Taiwan

Forty women from churches and church-related organisations in Asia attended a workshop entitled 'Asian Ecumenical Women Responding to and Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy' in Hsinchu, Taiwan, in November 2019, held as a pre-event for the Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (AEWA). Through contextual Bible studies, discussions, quizzes, and presentations, participations learnt about relevant HIV and AIDS issues. They also explored the church's role in effectively responding to the epidemic using the 'A-B-C-D' approach (awareness, breaking stigma, community and care, drugs like PEP, PrEP, and ART). Interacting with PLHIV and a local NGO founder further enriched their understanding. The participants prepared action plans to share what they learnt, raise awareness, and advocate for HIV and AIDS issues in their countries and communities.

A participant from Malaysia shared, "I come from a conservative church and so it is not easy to approach the community with the issues of HIV and AIDS directly. However, after being a part of the workshop and hearing about the work and lives of many people associated with this issue, I am deeply touched and motivated to

implement the action plan that I have prepared in a manner that is relevant to my church; I will then be able to find an entry point for HIV and AIDS.”

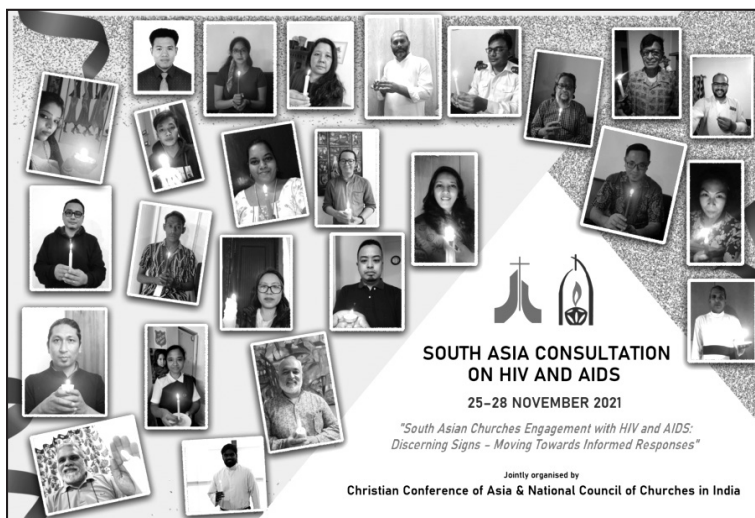
Multiple ATCHAA training programmes were conducted for different audiences across Papua, Indonesia, in February 2020. One session with fifteen female pastors focused on increasing knowledge and Church support for PLHIVs, addressing stigma and initiating awareness programmes. A training programme was conducted for thirty pastors and school teachers of Klasis (diocese) Sarmi to respond to the HIV crisis in their region. A half-day session for 440 young people and guests aimed at mass awareness of health and HIV. Another session for Gereja Kristen Injili di Tanah Papua (GKITP) Klasis (diocese) leaders from different parts of Papua encouraged HIV testing, awareness, and support. A special ecumenical training programme for twenty-one participants from different denominations in Jayapura motivated open-mindedness, reduced stigma, and enhanced the Church’s role in addressing HIV and AIDS. The participants planned to form a core group locally, utilise CCA resources, and support each other’s programmes. A medical camp and community health education sessions were also organised.

An online Regional Capacity-Building Training Programme was organised in June 2021 for forty participants from ten Asian countries. It focused on ‘Providing Care and Support: Regional Capacity-Building Training on HIV and AIDS Advocacy in Time of COVID-19 Pandemic’. The resource persons included representatives from UNAIDS, faith-based organisations, and civil society groups involved in HIV and AIDS advocacy. The participants developed action plans focusing on capacity-building, training, advocacy, and networking, emphasising the need for differentiated service delivery models to address challenges posed by the pandemic.

The CCA together with the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (Persekutuan Gereja-Gereja di Indonesia or PGI) organised a three-day virtual national capacity-building training in September 2021. Forty participants, from different member churches of CCA

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and PGI all over Indonesia, joined the training. Resource persons of the Consultation included representatives from faith-based organisations, PLHIV organisations and civil society organisations dealing with HIV and AIDS advocacy. Sessions dealt with myths and facts about HIV, normalising HIV language and reducing stigma in churches, theological perspectives on sexual orientations, and practical strategies on HIV prevention for churches and faith communities such as the ABCDE prevention, the SAVE approach, PrEP and PEP, ARV treatment and Undetectable=Untransmittable. Action plans and follow-up consultations were undertaken by the participants in their bid to continue working in HIV and AIDS advocacy.



Participants of the South Asia Sub-Regional Consultation on 'South Asian Churches Engagement with HIV and AIDS: Discerning Signs – Working Towards Informed Responses' held online in November 2021

A virtual Sub-Regional Consultation on 'South Asian Churches Engagement with HIV and AIDS: Discerning Signs – Working Towards Informed Responses' was organised in November 2021 by the CCA and the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI). Twenty-seven participants attended the programme which addressed challenges related to sex, sexuality, and stigma. UNAIDS advisers provided updated information on HIV and

AIDS incidence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants shared best practices and developed action plans for individual churches and ministries, emphasising the need for training, research, networking, and funding to achieve the 2030 targets. Commitments were made to prioritise the care and empowerment of PLHIV, promote stigma-free theologies, and collaborate with interfaith groups and government programmes to effectively address HIV and AIDS.



Participants of the Southeast Asia Sub-Regional Consultation on 'Southeast Asian Churches Engagement with HIV and AIDS: Working Towards Informed Responses', August 2022

The first in-person programme organised by the CCA after the COVID-19 pandemic was the Southeast Asia Sub-Regional Consultation on 'Southeast Asian Churches' Engagement with HIV and AIDS: Working Towards Informed Responses' at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in August 2022. Twenty-two leaders attended the training which was intended to equip them for comprehensive HIV response, strengthen churches' advocacy, and develop a regional strategy of inclusiveness. Discussions, experiences, and best practices were shared, emphasising prevention among key populations and young people to reduce new infections and improve testing and treatment policies. The participants visited service-providing centres in Chiang Mai and developed personal action plans to implement HIV and AIDS ministries through church-based programmes.



Three national-level capacity-building training programmes, Timor Leste, Bangladesh, Cambodia

The CCA conducted three national-level capacity-building training programmes in Asian countries in March and April 2023. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, a national training co-organised with the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB) equipped twenty young people with essential knowledge about HIV transmission, treatment, care, and support, fostering a collaborative approach. In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, forty Christian youth leaders learnt about the role of churches in addressing the HIV epidemic and were familiarised with the SAVE approach (Safer Practices, Access to Treatment, Voluntary Counselling and Testing, and Empowerment). In Dili, Timor Leste, a national training co-organised with the Protestant Church in Timor Leste (IPTL) for thirty participants emphasised churches' advocacy, prevention, care, and support for PLHIV, with government collaboration and voluntary testing opportunities provided.

Strengthening Networks and Collaboration

Strengthening networks and collaborations with various stakeholders, including civil society organisations, international

NGOs, and interfaith partnerships, is crucial for an effective Christian faith-based response to HIV and AIDS in Asia. These partnerships allow for leveraging unique strengths, resources, and expertise to address the complex challenges of the HIV epidemic. Sustainable Development Goal 17 emphasises the significance of partnerships for achieving all goals, including combating HIV and AIDS, as no single actor or sector can tackle the epidemic alone. The CCA aims to instrumentalise SDG 17 by promoting unity, solidarity, and collaboration, creating a world where individuals can live with dignity, free from the burden of HIV and AIDS. Through the ATCHAA programme's "Strengthening Networks and Collaborations" initiatives, the CCA brought together representatives and stakeholders from diverse constituencies to pool expertise and resources, promote holistic approaches, and advocate for the rights and well-being of those affected by HIV.

The CCA organised four 'National Roundtable Dialogues: Interfaith Communities and Key Affected Populations' in India (August 2015), Pakistan (December 2015), Bangladesh (March 2016), and Sri Lanka (April 2016). These dialogues brought together representatives from diverse religious communities and key affected populations to address HIV and AIDS issues. In Delhi, India, the thirty-six interfaith participants and KAP representatives discussed challenges at the grassroots. In Lahore, Pakistan, the participants formed the Pakistan Interfaith Network on HIV and AIDS to combat stigma and discrimination. In Bangladesh, the participants declared the formation of the Bangladesh Interfaith and KAP Networks on AIDS and committed to follow-up dialogues and activities. In Colombo, Sri Lanka, the participants established the Sri Lanka Interfaith and KAP Network on AIDS to work together in preventing HIV spread and reducing stigma against KAP.

The CCA hosted an Asian Interfaith Conference on HIV and AIDS in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Thirty participants from different interfaith networks and countries (religious communities and KAP), such as Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Korea,



Asian Interfaith Conference on HIV and AIDS in January 2016

and Thailand. Representatives from APCOM, APN+, INERELA+, UNAIDS, UNFPA, and WCC attended the Conference in January 2016. All participants agreed to increase collaboration in working together on prevention and intervention activities, as well as for advocacy at regional and local levels with their government, donor agencies, and within their communities. The participants also agreed to ask the CCA to be an umbrella organisation for AINA at the regional level.

In March 2016, the CCA facilitated twenty medical doctors from Indonesia to conduct a comparative study on HIV and AIDS in Thailand. The study group visited and discussed with City Hall Officers in Pattaya who were responsible for the local HIV and AIDS programme. They also observed how the Glory Hut Foundation took care of PLHIV in their shelter home. This enabled them to get insights into government policy and strategy on how to manage the HIV and AIDS prevention programme, and how to increase community participation to fight against HIV and AIDS. From the Glory Hut Foundation, they also learnt about shelter management and mobilising communities for programme sustainability.

In November 2016, the CCA identified the relationship between HIV and AIDS and disability as an emerging issue and conducted a Seminar and Theological Consultation in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It was attended by twenty-six participants from different Asian countries. The participants affirmed the role of churches in empowering people with disabilities (PwD) and PLHIV, challenging cultural taboos and engaging in solution-based advocacy.

In December 2016 at its headquarters, the CCA organised an Asian Ecumenical/Experts Consultation with twenty-six participants from nine countries to increase collaboration and contribute to UNAIDS' "fast-track strategy". Participants committed to constructive approaches, strengthening communication, and promoting joint actions to achieve the "90-90-90" UNAIDS target. The Consultation also provided valuable input for CCA's future initiatives.

In February 2018, the CCA-ATCHAA staff member met with the leadership of the Kampuchea Christian Council (KCC) and discussed the various initiatives of the KCC. The KCC specifically requested that the CCA help build the capacities of church leaders, especially the youth. Subsequently, a total of seven Cambodian young people were trained at Chiang Mai, Thailand, and Manado, Indonesia. The ATCHAA staff also visited the Salvation Centre in Cambodia, a faith-based organisation run by Buddhist monks. There were discussions regarding collaborations with the CCA, especially for the Interfaith Network of CCA.

In the same month, the CCA-ATCHAA staff met with UN agencies and partner organisations to establish linkages and networks and to explore the potential for collaboration with the Asia Interfaith Network on AIDS. The UNAIDS representatives committed to providing technical and programme input, and resource personnel for the CCA's ATCHAA programmes.

As part of networking, the CCA-ATCHAA staff member participated in the International Christian Medical and Dental

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Association (ICMDA) World Congress held in Hyderabad, India, in August 2018. The main purpose was to establish networks and collaborations with the Christian Medical Associations of various countries of Asia at the ICMDA World Congress 2018.



Participants of the National Consultation on 'Interfaith Response to HIV and AIDS in Indonesia', November 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia

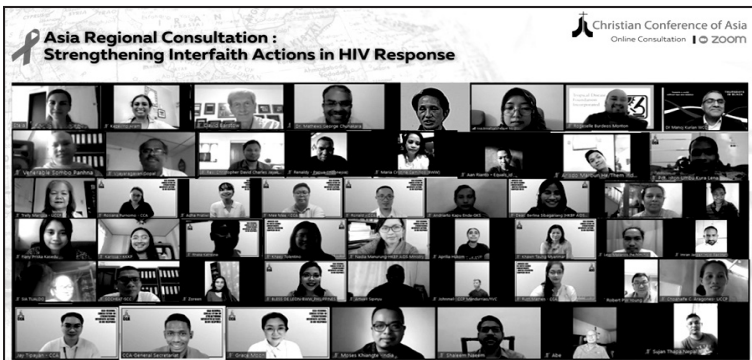
The united voice of different faiths acknowledged the significant role of faith-based organisations in halting and reversing the HIV epidemic in Indonesia, at the National Consultation on 'Interfaith Response to HIV and AIDS in Indonesia' organised by the CCA. Representatives of various religions gathered at the Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia, in November 2018 to discuss the role of faith-based institutions in responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the country. Religious leaders emphasised the need for reaching out to people, forming partnerships, and building capacities for leadership and advocacy. Each faith group developed an action plan to sensitise their leaders, mainstream HIV advocacy, and advocate for compassion and inclusiveness.

In August and September 2019, the CCA-ATCHAA Coordinator visited Bhutan to explore collaborations with PLHIV networks and discuss the contributions of CCA and its members. Meetings were held with the Bhutan Network of PLHIV (BNP+), the National AIDS Control Programme, Rainbow Bhutan, and others. Follow-up discussions in New Delhi, India, focused on strategies for collaboration with the Delhi Network of Positives (DNP+) and training healthcare professionals in Bhutan for PLHIV advocacy.



*Meeting with Papua Parliament members in February 2020
for HIV and AIDS Advocacy Efforts*

In February 2020, the CCA collaborated with parliament members and church leaders in Papua to initiate advocacy efforts against HIV and AIDS in West Papua, Indonesia. Concrete plans for state-faith partnerships were discussed, acknowledging the Church's role in awareness, stigma reduction, testing, and treatment. Meetings with UNICEF and WHO focused on addressing challenges for vulnerable children and healthcare in Papua. Another meeting aimed to encourage churches to combat HIV and AIDS in the region, highlighting concerns about access to healthcare and promoting health-seeking behaviours. A session with students and faculty of the Izaak Samuel Kijne School of Philosophy and Theology promoted theological perspectives on HIV.



*Participants of the online Regional Consultation on 'Strengthening Interfaith
Actions in HIV Response', September 2021*

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The CCA held a two-day online Regional Consultation on ‘Strengthening Interfaith Actions in HIV Response’ in September 2021, with thirty-seven interfaith representatives from Asia and beyond. Resource persons from UNAIDS, faith-based organisations, and networks of PLHIV shared best practices. The Consultation emphasised an inclusive environment for PLHIV and key populations, promoting justice and peace without stigma and discrimination in faith communities.

Advocacy

Advocacy serves as a powerful tool to raise awareness about HIV and promote understanding of the unique challenges faced by affected individuals and communities. Dialogue and engagement with stakeholders are vital in combating HIV in Asia. These actions raise awareness, influence policies, and mobilise resources to address the epidemic effectively. Advocacy helps identify gaps, tailor interventions for key populations, and combat stigma. Advocacy efforts can also combat stigma and discrimination, which are major barriers to accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support services. Engaging with UN bodies and international providers aligns regional efforts with global strategies, facilitates knowledge-sharing, and fosters a collaborative approach to tackle common challenges. Such liaisons also help in the sharing of experiences and lessons learnt among countries in the region, fostering a collaborative approach to address common challenges and achieve shared goals.

The CCA joined the global community in the observance of the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial in May 2018 with a Sunday service together with the CCT AIDS Ministry (CAM) and Chang Kham Church in Hang Dong District, Chiang Mai. The service focused on the year’s theme ‘Reflecting on our Past, Preparing for our Future!’

The CCA’s Asia Regional Consultation on ‘HIV and AIDS, Human Sexuality, and Reproductive Health’ held at the CCA headquarters in August 2018 aimed to create space for inter-church dialogue



*Participants of the Asia Regional Consultation on
'HIV and AIDS, Human Sexuality, and Reproductive Health', August 2018*

on these topics in Asia. The objectives were to develop strategies for positive dialogue, advocate for prevention strategies, and disseminate best practices. Thirteen participants from eight countries emphasised the need to consolidate church efforts, create a common platform for resource-sharing and learning, engage in continuous theological reflection, and raise awareness among church leaders.

CCA-ATCHAA conducted advocacy meetings with UNAIDS and UNICEF in February 2019 to strengthen their partnerships. The UN representatives appreciated CCA's efforts and found the skill-building workshops, like contextual Bible studies and action planning, valuable in faith-based settings. UNAIDS and CCA-ATCHAA agreed to continue collaboration, with UNAIDS providing technical support and joint programmes on interfaith consultations on HIV and AIDS. UNICEF recognised CCA's potential in supporting children's rights and urged the CCA to tap into church resources for greater impact.

In March 2019, the CCA organised a one-day Consultation on 'Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy and Networking in Asia',

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alongside the Regional Skill-Building for HIV Facilitators. The participants discussed the role of faith-based organisations in responding to HIV and AIDS. They emphasised the need to strengthen data through research and programmes conducted by churches, document good practices, and share information with governments and UN agencies. The participants committed to being ambassadors in their settings, reaching out to PLHIV and key populations, and revising their action plans to promote inclusiveness and reduce stigma.

Gathering in Yangon, Myanmar, in August 2019, twenty participants from Indonesia and Myanmar explored collaborated pathways for HIV advocacy commitments. Interfaith representatives from Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam also participated through the Myanmar Interfaith Network on AIDS (MINA) and the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC). Exposure visits to organisations and PLHIVs provided practical insights for creating programmes. Participants emphasised the importance of mutual understanding and respect to scale up advocacy work in HIV among faith-based organisations, finding the experience beneficial for their action plans.



Participants of the 'Asian Interfaith Consultation in Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy', January 2020

The CCA held the 'Asian Interfaith Consultation in Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy' in January 2020 at its headquarters in

Chiang Mai, Thailand, with twenty-five faith leaders including Buddhist monks and Islamic scholars. The Consultation examined the role of faith-based institutions in addressing HIV concerns and fostering interfaith advocacy collaborations. Participants assessed their own organisations' involvement, and made plans to strengthen national interfaith AIDS networks. The Consultation facilitated the sharing and development of strategies to strengthen advocacy for HIV and AIDS in Asia.

The Consultation on 'Vulnerabilities of HIV and AIDS—Challenges and Issues of Human Sexuality, Reproductive Health, and Gender Discrimination' was attended by forty participants from across Asia in September 2020. Resource persons included officers of the UNAIDS Asia-Pacific Regional Support Team, Youth Voices Count (FBO from the Philippines), staff of specially invited national councils of churches, and representatives from key affected populations. The participants developed practical suggestions for the engagement of churches in their local contexts.



Participants of the National Consultative Meeting on 'Bridging the Gap: By Leaving No One Behind', November 2020 in Punakha, Bhutan

'Bridging the Gap: By Leaving No One Behind' was the theme of the national consultative meeting to strengthen HIV and AIDS advocacy which was held in Punakha, Bhutan, in November 2020. Organised by Lhak-Sam (Bhutan Network of Positives) and the CCA, it saw the participation of thirty-two representatives from diverse organisations, including government ministries, civil society, faith-based groups, media houses, and the private sector. Representatives from key affected populations such as PLHIV, LGBTQ community members, and commercial sex workers networks also joined the two-day meeting.

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A total of nineteen participants attended a national interfaith advocacy training on HIV and AIDS prevention in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in February 2021, which was organised by the CCA and the National Christian Council in Sri Lanka (NCCSL). The number of participants was limited in compliance with the rules and restrictions with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sessions covered health, sexual health, stigma reduction, and human rights-based approaches. Participants emphasised mutual respect, dialogue, and behaviour change for prevention. Action plans were prepared for implementation in their settings, and knowledge and attitude changes were measured through pre- and post-tests.

The CCA organised a two-day online Regional Consultation entitled 'Towards an Effective Advocacy on HIV and AIDS for Upholding Dignity of Gender and Sexual Minorities' in March 2022. Thirty-one participants from different countries across Asia and beyond attended the online Consultation. The participants emphasised the importance of addressing human sexuality in a comprehensive manner to initiate effective HIV programmes in churches. The Consultation reinforced the need to have dialogue, open discussion, and deliberation to build a community where no one is left behind and where every individual becomes accountable for their rights and responsibilities.



Participants of the National Conference on 'Strengthening the Voices of Youth in the Philippines for HIV Advocacy', December 2022 in Cebu, the Philippines

The CCA, in collaboration with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and the Philippines Ecumenical

Youth Council (KKKP), organised a national Conference entitled ‘Strengthening the Voices of Youth in the Philippines for HIV Advocacy’ in December 2022, in Cebu, Philippines. Around sixty key leaders from the ecumenical youth movement attended the Conference, which aimed to revitalise churches’ collaborative efforts in dealing with the recent uptick of HIV and AIDS transmissions in the Philippines. The ecumenical youth leaders developed concrete plans for the continuation of HIV and AIDS advocacy in churches and communities around the Philippines which included a proposed three-year programme on HIV and AIDS advocacy to be adopted by the Philippine Ecumenical Youth Council.



Participants of the Asia Regional Interfaith Conference on ‘Towards Strengthening Interfaith Action Networks for Combating HIV and AIDS’ held in January 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand

In January 2023, the CCA organised an Asia Regional Interfaith Conference on ‘Towards Strengthening Interfaith Action Networks for Combating HIV and AIDS’ in Bangkok, Thailand. The summit, attended by seventy participants representing Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam, resulted in the formation of the Asian Interfaith Network on AIDS (AINA) Steering Committee and a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which designated the CCA as the coordinator of the renewed AINA. The religious leaders highlighted their strengths, including mutual understanding among the different religions, sustained networks, education campaigns, and the establishment of shelters for affected individuals. Participants committed to advocating for HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care while combating stigma and discrimination through collaboration, technology, media resources, and individual and organisational strengths.

Officers (2015–2023)

Moderator

Archbishop (Ephorus) Willem T.P. Simarmata (2015–June 2022)
Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) in Indonesia

Moderator (*Acting– December 2022 onwards*)

The Rt. Revd. Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey
Church of Ceylon

Vice-Moderator

Rev. Diana Tana (2015–June 2022)
Te Runanga Whakawanaunga I Nga Nahi O Aotearoa

Vice-Moderator (*Acting– December 2022 onwards*)

The Right Revd. Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza
United Church of Christ in the Philippines

Treasurer

Mr Augustine Dipak Karmaker
Church of Bangladesh

General Secretary

Dr Mathews George Chunakara
Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in India

Executive Committee (2015–2023)

Rev. Arshad Gill	Church of Pakistan
Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabey	Church of Ceylon
Ms Huang Shin-Yi	Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
Ms Ithrana Lawrence	Council of Churches in Malaysia
Rev. Kim Jong-goo	Korean Methodist Church
Rev. Kingphet Thammavong	Lao Evangelical Church
Rev. Moises Antonio da Silva	Protestante Church in Timor Leste

Ms Nirmala Gurung	National Council of Churches in Nepal
Bishop P.C. Singh	National Council of Churches in India
Rt. Rev. Reuel Norman Marigza	United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Archbishop HG Sebouh Sarkissian	Armenian Orthodox Church in Iran
Dr Sawako Fujiwara	National Christian Council in Japan
Ms Supaporn Yarnasarn	Church of Christ in Thailand
Rev. Terence Corkin	Uniting Church in Australia
Dr Tong Wing-Sze	Hong Kong Christian Council
Win Htut Thar Kyi	Myanmar Baptist Convention
Rev. Kyrie Kim	Anglican Church in Korea

Programme Committee (2015–2023)

Rev. Kyrie Kim (Chairperson)	Anglican Church in Korea
Agatha Abrahamian	Armenian Orthodox Church in Iran
Chhoden Tshering	National Christian Council in Bhutan
Rt. Rev. Dr Daniel S. Thiagarajah	Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India
Rev. Dr Henry William Booth Sumakul	Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa, Indonesia
Rev. Evelyn Ruth Bhajan	Church of Pakistan
Ms Kaythi Min Din	Myanmar Council of Churches
Bishop Kuriakose Mor Theophilose	Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church
Ms Lizette Galimia Tapia	United Methodist Church in the Philippines
Prof. Martha Mary Marwein	National Council of Churches in India

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Ms Mary Thomas	Council of Churches in Malaysia
Rev. Dr Mery Kolimon	Protestant Evangelical Church in Timor
Ms Molina Karmaker	Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha
Bishop Philip Huggins	Anglican Church of Australia
Rev. Prince Devanandan	Methodist Church in Aotearoa New Zealand
Dr Sawako Fujiwara	National Christian Council in Japan
Ms Srey Sotheavy	Kampuchea Christian Council of Cambodia
Rev. Dr Stephen Arulampalam	Church of Ceylon
Tso Hiu-tung, Jessica	Hong Kong Christian Council
Victor Wan Chi Hsu	Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

Finance Committee (2015–2023)

Mr Israel Paulraj	Church of Ceylon
Mr Nuttee Kunlacharnpises	Church of Christ in Thailand
Mr Patrick Yuen	Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China
Mr Robert Bruce Chellappa	Church of South India
Mr Augustine Dipak Karmakar (Treasurer)	Church of Bangladesh
Dr Mathews George Chunakara (GS)	Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in India

Hong Kong-based Investment Sub-Committee (2015–2023)

Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Soo
Dr Wing-Sze Tong
Rev. Eric So
Rev. Kam-Cheong Po
Mr Patrick Yuen



Executive Committee Meeting, October 2015



CCA Staff-2019

Programmes and Activities from 2015 to 2023: At a Glance

	Programme/Activity	Date	Place	Participants
2015				
PD	Roundtable Meeting on Asian Ecumenical Accompaniment in Nepal	30 June–1 July 2015	Bangkok, Thailand	10
SP	National Roundtable Dialogue of Interfaith Communities and Key Affected Populations	26–27 August 2015	Delhi, India	36
EF	National Women Leadership Development Training	1–3 October 2015	Vientiane, Laos	8
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2015	13–16 October 2015	Bangkok, Thailand	26
EF	National Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia	20–24 October 2015	Lahore, Pakistan	33
SP	Training and Workshop on HIV and AIDS for Theological Seminaries' Lecturers	25–29 October 2015	Jakarta, Indonesia	37

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EF	Ecumenical Formation Seminar for Theological Educators in Refugee Camps	3–5 November 2015	Mae Sot, Thailand	100
EF	National Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia	15–20 November 2015	Dili, Timor Leste	45
PD	Consultation on 'Churches Together for Joint Action against Trafficking of Women and Children'	15–20 November 2015	Chiang Mai, Thailand	17
EF	National Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia	23–28 November 2015	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	45
MU	CATS–VIII Planning Meeting	30 November–1 December 2015	Chiang Mai, Thailand	5
SP	National Roundtable Dialogue of Interfaith Communities and Key Affected Populations	30 November–1 December 2015	Lahore, Pakistan	30
GS	Programme Committee Meeting	3–5 December 2015	Chiang Mai, Thailand	13
EF	Regional Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia	7–10 December 2015	Chiang Mai, Thailand	10

2016				
EF	Asian Conference on Ecumenical Sunday School Curriculum	12–15 January 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	25
SP	Asian Interfaith Conference on HIV and AIDS	15–16 January 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	30
SP	Strategic Planning Meeting for CCA's HIV and AIDS Training Programme 2017–2019	17–18 January 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	12
EF	Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia (EETA) for Women Leaders in Laos	20–22 January 2016	Vientiane, Laos	47
SP	Comparative Study on HIV and AIDS by Medical Doctors from Indonesia	7–8 March 2016	Pattaya, Thailand	20
SP	National Roundtable Dialogue in Bangladesh	9–10 March 2016	Dhaka, Bangladesh	36
PD	CCA Delegation at 60 th UN-CSW	13–24 March 2016	New York, USA	3
SP	'Collaborative Action: Thailand Christian NGOs' Workshop on HIV and AIDS	26–27 March 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	53
EF	Ecumenism at the Grassroots Programme at Thai-Burma Border Refugee Camp	27 March 2016	Mae La, Thailand	3

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MU	Regional Consultation on 'Asian Women Doing Theology in the Context of Wider Ecumenism'	15–18 April 2016	Cochin, India	20
MU	Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–VIII	18–22 April 2016	Cochin, India	100
SP	National Roundtable Dialogue in Sri Lanka	21–22 April 2016	Colombo, Sri Lanka	33
SP	Skill-building in a Holistic Approach to HIV and AIDS	27–29 April 2016	Dili, Timor Leste	35
EF	Asia Sunday–2016 – 'Korea: Towards Unity in the Bond of Peace'	22 May 2016	All over Asia	
BP	Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA)–2016	12–18 June 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	23
EF	Ecumenical Formation and Youth Leadership Training in Cambodia	27–30 June 2016	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	35
SP	Skill-building in HIV and AIDS Programme Management in Cambodia	7–10 July 2016	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	35
EF	Youth Leaders' Training on Shaping a New Ecumenical Paradigm	12–13 July 2016	Sumatra, Indonesia	50

MU	Asian Movement of Christian Unity (AMCU)–VII: ‘Crisis of Climate Change in our Common Home’	13–15 July 2016	Medan, Indonesia	50
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2016	18–22 July 2016	Medan, Indonesia	38
SP	HIV and AIDS Awareness Training for Pastoral Counselling and VCT	17–20 August 2016	Paro, Bhutan	29
EF	Youth Leadership Training for Young Christians in the Mekong Sub-Region	21–26 August 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	24
MU	Asia Mission Conference Preparatory Meeting	22–26 September 2016	Bangkok, Thailand	9
MU	Working Group Meeting for the Curriculum Building and Management of East Timor Christian Institute	4–5 October 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	8
BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to Pakistan	2–6 October 2016	Lahore, Pakistan	3
EF	Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2016	24 October–23 November 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	19

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SP	Seminar/Training and Workshop on 'Theological-Interfaith Perspective on HIV and AIDS'	6–10 November 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	33
PD	Seminar and Theological Consultation on 'HIV and AIDS Concerns and People with Disabilities'	11–14 November 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	26
PD	Consultation on 'Criminalisation of Trafficking and Its Impact on Women and Children'	13–17 November 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	35
BP	Regional Consultation on 'Women Building Peace and Transforming the World'	17–20 November 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	35
BP	Consultation on 'Eco-justice: Towards Sustainable Development and Food Security in Asia'	28 November–2 December 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	60
SP	Ecumenical/Expert Consultation: Action Together in Combating HIV and AIDS in Asia	7–10 December 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	26
SP	TOT Peer Educators: Youth and Women on HIV and AIDS and Reproductive Health	9–11 December 2016	Chiang Mai, Thailand	10

2017				
EF	Workshop on 'Worship and Liturgical Traditions in Asia'	26–30 January 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	12
MU	Asia Mission Conference (AMC) Preparatory Meeting	16–19 February 2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand	6
MU	Asia Mission Conference (AMC) Preparatory Meeting	27 February–2 March 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	13
BP	International Women's Day Celebration – Women Empowering Women	8 March 2017	Lahore, Pakistan	150
GS	Investment Committee Meeting in Hong Kong	March 2017	Hong Kong	5
BP	Interfaith Cooperation Forum Consultation on Peace Education Training in Asia	19–23 April 2017	Singapore	8
PD	Consultation on 'Rights and Dignity of Manual Scavengers and Advocacy on Abolition of Manual Scavenging in India'	23–28 April 2017	Chennai, India	48

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EF	Ecumenical Theological Orientation Training for Ecumenical Enablers	14–16 April 2017	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	35
EF	Women Leadership Development Training	27–29 April 2017	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	47
MU	Working Group Meeting to draft the Mission Statement of Asia Mission Conference (AMC)	3–7 May 2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand	11
BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to Bangladesh	7–12 May 2017	Dhaka, Bangladesh	2
BP	International Mother's Day	14 May 2017	Lahore, Pakistan	150
MU	Ecumenical Theological Training for Pastors and Evangelists	16–18 May 2017	Dili, Timor Leste	45
EF	Ecumenical Theological Training for Young Pastors	22–25 May 2017	Chiang Dao, Thailand	45
EF	Ecumenical Formation and Leadership Development for Young Ecumenists	26–27 May 2017	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	27
BP	Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA)–2017	28 May–3 June 2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand	25
BP	National Consultation on 'Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence' (EWAAV)	2–3 June 2017	Dhaka, Bangladesh	60

GS	Finance Committee Meeting	9–10 July 2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand	5
MU	Consultation on 'Towards Revitalising the Asian Ecumenical Movement'	10–13 July 2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand	60
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2017	13–15 July 2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand	46
BP	Sub-Regional Consultation on 'Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence and Building Peace'	16–20 July 2017	Bangkok, Thailand	29
MU	Pre-Asia Mission Conference: Indian Missional Conversation on 'Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia'	23–24 August 2017	Ranchi, India	100
MU	Pre-Asia Mission Conference: 'Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia'	26 August 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	200
EF	Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2017	25 September – 20 October 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	22

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PD	Asia Consultation on 'Migration and Human Trafficking: A Call for Decent Work'	8–11 October 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	40
PD	Asia Regional Consultation on 'Disabled People; Strength in Weakness and Quest for Dignity: Ecumenical Advocacy in Asia'	9–11 October 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	36
MU	Asia Mission Conference (AMC)	11–17 October 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	600
GS	CCA Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service	15 October 2017	Yangon, Myanmar	6600
EF	Asia Sunday–2017: 'Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia'	15 October 2017	All over Asia	
PD	Human Rights in Pakistan and Advocacy at the United Nations	12–17 November 2017	Geneva, Switzerland	7
EF	Ecumenical Theological Orientation Training for Bible School Teachers of Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Church	13–17 November 2017	Mae Sot, Thailand	35

BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to UAE	17–21 November 2017	UAE	2
BP	National Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence	27–28 November 2017	Vientiane, Laos	50
BP	National Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence: Post-War Situation	29–30 November 2017	Colombo, Sri Lanka	25
BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to West Papua, Indonesia	4–8 December 2017	West Papua, Indonesia	3
BP	Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence: End Violence Against Women and Children	10 December 2017	Lahore, Pakistan	40
EF	Asian Ecumenical Fellowship	2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand	3
2018				
BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to Cambodia	1–4 February 2018	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	3
SP	Strengthening Networks and Collaboration with Churches and Interfaith Networks	1–4 February 2018	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	1

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SP	Advocacy Meeting with UN Agencies and Partner Organisations: UNAIDS	7–8 February 2018	Bangkok, Thailand	1
MU	Asia Mission Conference Follow-Up Consultation in Pakistan	20–21 February 2018	Lahore, Pakistan	60
MU	Women Doing Theology in Pakistan	21–23 February 2018	Lahore, Pakistan	33
SP	Development of Modules and Content of Sermons, Bible Studies, and Training Manual for HIV and AIDS	12–14 March 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	9
SP	Skill-building Training of Facilitators of HIV and AIDS Advocacy	14–16 March 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	19
EF	Planning Consultation for Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (AEWA)	16–17 March 2018	Bangkok, Thailand	10
EF	Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia (EETA)	20–23 March 2018	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	45
SP	Youth Motivation Programme for HIV Prevention	4–6 April 2018	Manado, Indonesia	18
EF	Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA)	6–12 April 2018	Manado, Indonesia	400

BP	Visit to Local Ecumenical Fellowships in Cambodia	9–15 April 2018	Around Cambodia	1
MU	AMC National Follow-up on 'Towards Contextual Interpretations of Asia Mission Statement'	1 May 2018	Yangon, Myanmar	50
EF	Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia (EETA) in Nepal	8–11 May 2018	Kathmandu, Nepal	90
BP	Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence (EWA AV) in Cambodia	10–12 May 2018	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	40
EF	Asia Sunday–2018: 'Embracing the Differently Abled and Upholding Their Dignity'	13 May 2018	All over Asia	
SP	Observation of International AIDS Candlelight Memorial–2018	20 May 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	70
MU	AMC Follow-up Consultation in India on 'Embracing Strangers and Prophetic Witnessing'	19–21 June 2018	Kottayam, India	70

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SP	Skill-building Training of Facilitators of HIV and AIDS Advocacy in Nepal	22–23 June 2018	Kathmandu, Nepal	26
BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to UAE Labour Camps	28–30 June 2018	Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, UAE	13
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2018	1–4 July 2018	Antelias, Lebanon	22
SP	Workshop on Churches' Effective Response to HIV and AIDS in Myanmar	4–5 July 2018	Yangon, Myanmar	50
EF	Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2018	16 July–15 August 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	26
MU	International Consultation on 'Wider Ecumenism as Prophetic Witness'	7–11 August 2018	Bangalore, India	110
SP	Consultation on 'Church's Role in Addressing Concerns on HIV and AIDS, Human Sexuality, and Reproductive Health'	15–18 August 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	13
BP	Planning Consultation of WCC–PJP Asia Focus	4–7 September 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	11

PD	Asia Regional Consultation on 'Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Children'	16–20 September 2018	Jakarta, Indonesia	60
BP	Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA)–2018	15–20 October 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	27
SP	Workshop on 'HIV and AIDS Awareness of Churches in Bangladesh'	4–6 November 2018	Dhaka, Bangladesh	30
EF	Contextual Theology Training for Burmese Refugees' Theological Institutions on Thailand-Myanmar Border	6–10 November 2018	Mae Sot, Thailand	35
PD	International Consultation on 'Asian Diaspora in the Arabian Gulf and Human Trafficking'	11–15 November 2018	Bangkok, Thailand	50
BP	Asia Regional Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence	15–17 November 2018	Bangkok, Thailand	28
SP	National Consultation on Interfaith Response to HIV and AIDS in Indonesia	18–22 November 2018	Jakarta, Indonesia	20

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MU	Preparatory Consultation for Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–IX	26–29 November 2018	Chiang Mai, Thailand	13
EF	Women’s Leadership Development Training for Lao Women	29 November–1 December 2018	Vientiane, Laos	65
SP	Youth Motivation Programme in Combatting HIV and AIDS in Cambodia	9–12 December 2018	Phnom Penh	31
2019				
GS	Officers’ Meeting	15–16 January 2019	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	3
SP	Advocacy Meeting with UNAIDS and UNICEF	7–8 February 2019	Bangkok, Thailand	2
BP	Pilgrimage Team Visit to Burma-Thai Border	27 February–3 March 2019	Mae Sot, Thailand	15
BP	WCC–PJP International Reference Group Meeting	3–7 March 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	46
SP	Regional Skill Building Workshop for HIV and AIDS Facilitators (TOT)	19–21 March 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	22
SP	Consultation on Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy and Networking (ATCHAA)	22 March 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	25

BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to Sri Lanka	21–23 April 2019	Colombo, Sri Lanka	1
GS	CCA Foundation Thailand Meeting	30 April 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	5
BP	Pastoral Solidarity Visit to Bahrain	3–7 May 2019	Bahrain	1
EF	Ecumenical Enablers' Training in Asia (EETA)	13–15 May 2019	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	43
PD	International Consultation on 'Statelessness and Human Trafficking'	20–23 May 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	41
PD/SP	World Health Assembly 2019 and WCC Consultation on Universal Health Coverage	20–28 May 2019	Geneva, Switzerland	1
PD	Asia Regional Workshop on 'UN Human Rights System and Mechanisms: Application for Advocacy'	23–26 May 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	21
GS	General Assembly 2020 Preparatory Meeting	27–28 May 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	7
PD	Advocacy at UN Women Regional Office	30 May 2019	Bangkok, Thailand	3
EF	Asia Sunday–2019: 'Stateless and Trafficked People: Our Co-Pilgrims'	2 June 2019	All over Asia	

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EF	AEWA Preparatory Meeting	3 June 2019	Taipei, Taiwan	4
GS	Staff Visit to Churches in Taiwan	1–6 June 2019	Hsinchu and Taipei, Taiwan	4
SP	Youth Motivation Programme (ATCHAA)	21–23 June 2019	Kathmandu, Nepal	35
EF	Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2019	1–30 July 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	24
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2019	16–18 July 2019	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	31
BP	Seminar on ‘Prevention of Sexual Abuse against Children’	15 July 2019	Lahore, Pakistan	40
EF	Youth Leadership Development Training	15–16 July 2019	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	45
SP	Youth Motivation Programme (ATCHAA)	15–17 July 2019	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	45
BP	Advocacy Training on Women’s Rights	5 August 2019	Raiwind, Pakistan	40
MU	Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–IX	5–10 August 2019	Medan, Indonesia	120
SP	Ecumenical Learning Exchange of Churches and Interfaith Organisations (Indonesia and Myanmar)	19–22 August 2019	Yangon, Myanmar	20

SP	Advocacy Meetings in Bhutan and India	25 August–9 September 2019	Paro, Bhutan & Delhi, India	1
SP	Youth Motivation Programme (ATCHAA)	13–15 September 2019	Cebu, Philippines	27
BP	Sub-Regional Consultation on Ecumenical Women’s Action Against Violence	4–6 October 2019	Dhaka, Bangladesh	25
BP	Solidarity Visit to Rohingya Refugee Camps	7–8 October 2019	Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh	3
PD	Asia Regional Consultation on ‘Child Rights Protection and Advocacy to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation’	13–16 October 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	38
BP	Eco-School on Water, Food, and Climate Justice	4–17 November 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	28
BP	The Ninth Global Energy Parliament	5 November 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	45
SP	Workshop on Asian Ecumenical Women Responding and Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy	19–21 November 2019	Hsinchu, Taiwan	40
GS	Officers’ Meeting	21 November 2019	Hsinchu, Taiwan	3

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EF	Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly	21–27 November 2019	Hsinchu, Taiwan	250
MU	Asia Regional Consultation on Evangelism and Missional Witness in a Multi-Religious Asia	30 November– 5 December 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	40
PD	Training on Ecumenical Diakonia and Development	4–8 December 2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	41
EF	Asian Ecumenical Fellowship (AEF)	2019	Chiang Mai, Thailand	2
2020				
SP	Asian Interfaith Consultation on Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy	27–31 January 2020	Chiang Mai, Thailand	25
EF	General Assembly Worship Preparation Team Meeting	2–4 February 2020	Chiang Mai, Thailand	3
GS	Theological Consultation on General Assembly Theme	4–7 February 2020	Chiang Mai, Thailand	7
SP	Skill-building Workshop for HIV Facilitators	19–20 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	30
GS	Meeting with Local Arrangement Committee of the General Assembly	20 February 2020	Trivandrum, India	20

SP	Health, Healing, and Wholeness in the Context of HIV for Women Pastors	22 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	15
SP	Health, Healing, and Wholeness in the Context of HIV for Young People	23 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	440
SP	Health, Healing, and Wholeness in the Context of HIV for Klasis Leaders	29 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	16
SP	Youth Motivational Programme for Youth in Klasis Port Numbay, Jayapura	24–26 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	21
SP	HIV Advocacy Meeting with Church-Based Organisations	21 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	20
SP	HIV Advocacy Meeting with Theology Students and Faculty	28 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	500
MU	Consultation on ‘Contextual Theology and Sustainability of Creation’	24–26 February 2020	Tahan Kalaymyo, Myanmar	60
SP	Advocacy Meeting with Parliament of Papua Province, Papua Provincial Health Office, and other related organisations	27 February 2020	Papua, Indonesia	7

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PD	Webinar on 'Plight of Migrant Workers amidst the COVID-19 Crisis'	30 April 2020	Online	100
MU	Webinar on 'Churches in Asia Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis'	7 May 2020	Online	100
PD	Webinar on 'Right to Health amidst the COVID-19 Crisis'	14 May 2020	Online	56
PD	Webinar on 'Upholding the Rights and Dignity of Children amidst the COVID-19 Crisis'	19 May 2020	Online	47
BP	Webinar on 'Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Women in Asia: Vital Needs and Post-Crisis Recovery'	21 May 2020	Online	80
EF	Asia Sunday–2020: 'God, Heal Us As We Are Vulnerable'	24 May 2020	Online	22 leaders & 21,000 views
BP	Webinar on 'Will COVID-19 Worsen Food Insecurity in Asia?'	28 May 2020	Online	60
PD	Advocacy at the UN Women Asia Pacific Region	17 June 2020	Online	3

SP	Consultation on 'Vulnerabilities of HIV and AIDS – Challenges and Issues of Human Sexuality, Reproductive Health, and Gender Discrimination'	2–4 September 2020	Online	40
PD	Webinar on 'Towards Wider Partnerships for Combatting Trafficking in Women and Girls amidst COVID-19'	1 October 2020	Online	50
BP	Virtual Prayer Service on World Food Day	16 October 2020	Online	50
EF	Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2020	2–30 November 2020	Online	36
SP	National Consultative Meeting on Strengthening HIV and AIDS Advocacy	3–4 November 2020	Punakha, Bhutan	32
PD	Training on Good Governance for Churches and Related Organisations in Asia	25–27 November 2020	Online	56
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2020	27–28 November 2020	Online	28

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BP	Webinar on 'Impact of Growing Religious Extremism on Women in Asia'	15 December 2020	Online	50
2021				
SP	Inter-faith Residential Advocacy Training Workshop on HIV and AIDS Prevention in Sri Lanka	26–28 February 2021	Colombo, Sri Lanka	19
BP	Webinar: Transformational Leadership of Women in a Post-COVID-19 World on International Women's Day–2021	8 March 2021	Online	7 facilitators & 1,300 viewers
PD	Advocacy at the UN: CCA Delegation at UN-CSW 65	15–26 March 2021	Online	8
BP	Webinar: Decreased Access to Safe Water: Challenges to Human Security	22 March 2021	Online	78
MU	Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS)–X Advisory Committee Meeting	9 April 2021	Online	5

PD	Regional Consultation on Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Children in a 'New Normal' Era	29–30 April 2021	Online	38
EF	Asia Sunday–2021: 'I Am the Lord Who Heals You and Restores Your Health'	16 May 2021	Online	30 leaders & 1,350 views
PD	Institute on Human Rights (IHR)–2021	17–28 May 2021	Online	25
BP	WCC-CCA Joint Regional Consultation on 'Overcoming Challenges of Inequality in Asia: Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic'	4 June 2021	Online	300
SP	Regional Capacity Building Training on 'HIV and AIDS Advocacy during COVID-19 Pandemic: Providing Care and Support'	15–17 June 2021	Online	40

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BP	Regional Consultation on 'Ensure Gender Equality; Empower Women and Lift Up Humanity'	8–9 July 2021	Online	70
PD	Consultation on 'Towards Vaccine Equity amidst COVID-19 Surge in Asia'	20 July 2021	Online	50
EF	Regional Consultation on 'Changing Family Values in Tradition and Modernity in Asia'	3–5 August 2021	Online	50
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2021	9–10 August 2021	Online	30
SP	National Capacity Building Training on HIV and AIDS in Indonesia	1–3 September 2021	Online	40
SP	Asia Regional Consultation on 'Strengthening Interfaith Actions in HIV Response'	21–22 September 2021	Online	37
BP	Asia Regional Consultation on 'Freedom of Religion, Rights of Religious Minorities, and Constitutional Guarantees in Asia'	5–8 October 2021	Online	50

EF	Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2021	18 October–19 November 2021	Online	26
EF	Contextual Theology Training for Faculties of Bible Schools in Burmese Refugee Camps	18–19 October 2021	Online	42
PD	Consultation on ‘Asian Churches Building Good Governance and Accountability in Serving Humanity’	9–11 November 2021	Online	48
PD	South Asia Sub-Regional Consultation on ‘South Asian Churches Engagement with HIV and AIDS: Discerning Signs – Working Towards Informed Responses’	25–28 November 2021	Online	27
PD	National Follow-up Consultation in India on ‘Towards an Ecumenical Advocacy for Upholding the Rights and Dignity of Children in India’	26–28 November 2021	Bengaluru, India	21
EF	AEWA Follow-up meeting	4 December 2021	Online	22

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PD	National Consultation on Children in Indonesia	14–16 December 2021	Bogor, Indonesia	25
2022				
PD	National Consultation on ‘Upholding Dignity and Rights of Children in a New Normal Era in the Philippines’	1–2 March 2022	Online	31
SP	Regional Consultation on ‘Towards an Effective Advocacy on HIV and AIDS for Upholding Dignity of Gender and Sexual Minorities’	24–25 March 2022	Online	31
PD	Asia Regional Consultation on ‘The Effects of COVID-19 on Trafficking in Persons’	29–30 March 2022	Online	30
SP	Southeast Asia Sub-Regional Consultation on ‘Southeast Asian Churches Engagement with HIV and AIDS: Working Towards Informed Responses’	2–4 August 2022	Online	22

BP	Ecumenical Solidarity Visit to Sri Lanka	3–7 August 2022	Colombo, Sri Lanka	4
BP	Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA)–2022	7–14 August 2022	Chiang Mai, Thailand	26
EF	Asia Sunday–2022: ‘Christ’s Love Reconciles and Unites’	21 August 2022	All over Asia	
EF	Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2022	19 September–14 October 2022	Chiang Mai, Thailand	24
BP	National Ecumenical Women’s Action Against Violence (EWAAV) in Timor Leste	20–21 September 2022	Dili, Timor Leste	35
EF	Ecumenical Enablers’ Training in Asia (EETA)	21–22 September 2022	Dili, Timor Leste	30
PD	Asia Regional Consultation on ‘Diakonal Ministry of the Church in Developing Effective Responses to Combat Human Trafficking in Asia’	28–30 September 2022	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	30
MU	Asia Regional Consultation on ‘Health, Healing, and Wholeness of Life: Churches’ Mission in Asia’	10–12 October 2022	Chiang Mai, Thailand	60

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PD	Asia Regional Consultation on 'Ecumenical Diakonia, Church's Response to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia'	24–26 October 2022	Chiang Mai, Thailand	35
BP	Sub-Regional Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence (EWAAV) in Sri Lanka	11–15 November 2022	Colombo, Sri Lanka	25
PD	Asia Regional Consultation on 'Towards Theological Education on Good Governance and Integrity Leadership'	28–30 November 2022	Chiang Mai, Thailand	35
SP	ATCHAA National Consultation on 'Strengthening the Voices of the Youth in the Philippines for HIV Advocacy'	1 December 2022	Cebu City, Philippines	60
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2022	2–3 December 2022	Online	27
MU	Biblical-Theological Bases of Human Dignity and Human Rights	4–11 December 2022	Colombo, Sri Lanka	27
2023				
EF	National Women's Leadership Development Training	16–19 January 2023	Vientiane, Laos	50

SP	Asia Regional Interfaith Conference on 'Towards Strengthening Interfaith Action Network for Combating HIV and AIDS in Asia'	23–25 January 2023	Bangkok, Thailand	70
GS	Executive Committee Meeting–2023	3–6 March 2023	Dhaka, Bangladesh	21
SP	National Capacity-Building Training in Bangladesh	8–9 March 2023	Dhaka, Bangladesh	20
SP	National Capacity-Building Training in Cambodia	30–31 March 2023	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	40
SP	National Capacity-Building Training in Timor Leste	25–27 April 2023	Dili, Timor Leste	30
PD	Asian Church and Ecumenical Leaders' Conference (ACELC)	1–5 May 2023	Jakarta, Indonesia	100
GS	Local Arrangement Committee Meeting, Assembly Worship Committee Meeting, Theological Consultation on General Assembly Theme	Early 2023	Kottayam and Kochi, India	

CCA Officers



Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey
Acting Moderator (December 2022–)



Dr Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary (August 2015–)



Bishop Reuel O. Marigza
Acting Vice Moderator (December 2022–)



Augustine Dipak Karmaker
Treasurer (May 2015–)



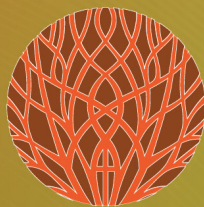
Archbishop W T.P. Simarmata
Moderator (May 2015–June 2022)



Rev. Diana Tana
Vice-Moderator (May 2015–June 2022)

“CCA’s vision, mission, and purpose revolve around working as God’s instrument for the Church in Asia for life together in a common obedience of witness to the mission of God in the world. CCA, as an organ and a forum of cooperation in Asia within the wider ecumenical movement, tries to promote the vision of hope amidst adversities and anxieties through various initiatives. CCA carried out its mission in manifold ways in the post-Jakarta Assembly period since 2015. ‘From Jakarta to Kottayam’ summarises the programmes and activities implemented during the past eight years.”

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