



# Christian Conference of Asia

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## CCA General Secretary's Message to the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Igreja Protestante Iha Timor Lorosa'e

It is with immense joy that we received the news about the 9th General Assembly of the Igreja Protestante Iha Timor Lorosa'e (IPTL), scheduled to be held from 4th to 10th July 2024. On behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia, I take this opportunity to extend warm greetings to all delegates gathered in Oecusse, Ambeno to participate in the Assembly.

The IPTL has been a valued member of the CCA for decades. The Asian churches have been proud of IPTL's unwavering commitment to proclaiming the gospel and living out the mission of God amidst many adversities. When it comes to serving God and the people of Timor Leste, the perseverance and unwavering dedication of IPTL members and of its leaders from time to time have been marvelous.

My colleagues and I have been indebted to IPTL for its excellent collaboration with CCA on various impactful programmes we jointly initiated in recent years, such as the ecumenical enablers' training for capacity building, empowerment of women and ecumenical women's action against violence, and the promotion of good governance and integrity leadership. Your passion and commitment for nurturing the potentials of young people in the church, and for the fostering of ecumenical collaborations with different churches within the country and beyond the borders of Timor Leste, helped the church to broaden its vision of witnessing together. Undoubtedly, the journey of the IPTL ever since its inception has been marked by numerous challenges, yet the resolve of its members to grow in God's faithfulness and grace has kept your faith steadfast.

May the words of Apostle Paul continue to inspire and strengthen you in your calling: *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, towards the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:13-14).

While I regret not being able to join you in person on this momentous occasion, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I fervently pray for the success of the IPTL's Synod Assembly. May your deliberations be fruitful and spiritually empowering.

May God empower you to fulfill Christ's mission, bringing hope and transformation.

Yours along the journey,

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara  
General Secretary, CCA