



Asian Ecumenical Institute — 2025
‘Enduring Faith and Embracing Unity towards Ecumenical Witness’
3 – 30 August 2025
Chiangmai, Thailand

The **Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)**, a month-long ecumenical formation training course organised annually by the CCA, focuses on ecumenical formation and leadership development of prospective Asian ecumenical and church leaders.

The AEI is an opportunity to foster a broader concept of ecumenism rooted in Christian faith, tradition, and heritage, promoting unity and understanding across boundaries of denomination, culture, society, economy, and politics. In an intercultural and interdenominational setting, the participants will have opportunities to live in an atmosphere of spirituality and worship, learn together through interactive sessions and dialogue, and develop perspectives to understand the contextual ecumenical responses to Asia’s emerging realities.

The AEI prioritises the formation of participants’ biblical and theological foundations to broaden and sharpen their perspectives on ecumenism. By the end of the programme, participants are equipped with knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to actively engage and contribute to the ecumenical movement.

Asian Ecumenical Institute – 2025

The AEI – 2025 will take place from **3 to 30 August 2025** at the **Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) Headquarters in Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand**. CCA member churches and councils are encouraged to nominate names of suitable candidates to attend the AEI – 2025.

The theme of the AEI – 2025 ‘**Enduring Faith and Embracing Unity towards Ecumenical Witness**’ has been developed within the conceptual framework of wider ecumenism. Furthermore, as we commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a significant moment in Christian history, the theme of AEI 2025 is to anchor our faith in the Triune God in this challenging epoch, and to cultivate a spirit of unity that transcends theological differences and cultural diversities, addressing contemporary challenges within the Christian faith, ecumenical movement, and interreligious context.

The AEI – 2025 will emphasise the imperative of strengthening ecumenical collaboration, particularly in Asia's dynamic and multifaceted context, where Christianity exists alongside diverse religious and cultural traditions. It encourages a transformative ecumenical witness that

transcends differences while upholding the core tenets of the Christian faith and fostering a spirit of harmonious unity.

The opportunities for living together in inter-cultural and inter-denominational settings, worshipping together, learning together about Asia's emerging realities, and identifying ways of developing contextual ecumenical responses will be an enriching and unique experience for each participant of the AEI.

The pool of resource persons for AEI – 2025 will include distinguished theologians and ecumenists engaged at the grassroots and international levels.

Admissions will be limited to twenty-four (24) applicants, and selections will be based on competence, gender, confessional balances, sub-regional representation, and the applicant's ability to communicate in English.

The CCA member churches, councils, and ecumenical organisations are encouraged to recommend interested candidates from their constituencies to apply for the AEI – 2025.

The AEI – 2025 will aim at:

- training a new group of prospective ecumenical leaders in Asia – from the clergy, laity, youth, and seminary students who are committed to ecumenism and ecumenical values;
- equipping church leaders with sound theological, socio-political, and practical skills with broader ecumenical vision, tools of analysis of the Asian reality and the development of leadership skills;
- enhancing capacities to respond effectively to contemporary ecumenical challenges; and,
- assisting participants in developing Asian and international ecumenical networks.

Who can apply?

- ✓ Young pastors, theological students, church workers, and lay persons nominated and recommended by their respective churches and ecumenical councils or other ecumenical organisations in Asia;
- ✓ Persons below 35 years;
- ✓ Persons interested in broadening their ecumenical perspectives and committed to promoting and actively engaging in the ecumenical movement in their respective countries.

Scholarship/Travel bursaries

The total cost for one student's participation at AEI–2025 for registration, board and lodging, and tuition fees will be 2,750.00 USD. The CCA will offer a full or partial scholarship to deserving applicants, recommended and endorsed by member churches, councils, and ecumenical organisations.

Limited travel subsidies will also be available for candidates from South and Southeast Asia countries intending to join the course. Churches from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong,

Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Australia are encouraged to sponsor the travel costs of participants from their respective churches. However, member churches and councils from these countries can apply for full tuition fees and board and lodging expenses of their sponsored candidates.

How to Apply

AEI – 2025 applications will be accepted online via Google Form. The Application Form can be found via this link: <https://shorturl.at/VGnI7>

Completed applications for the AEI 2025 should be submitted to CCA no later than **15 May 2025**. Selected candidates will be informed the status of the selection process by the end of May 2025.