



Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA)-2025
'Sustaining Peace in Asia through Religious Cooperation (SPARC)'

The Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) is an initiative of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) to train prospective young peace activists and bring them together on a common platform to help build communities where peace and harmony prevail.

To build and establish communities of peace in Asia, it is essential, critical, and imperative to train new generations of peace activists who are committed to the cause of justice and harmony. The power of transformational and lasting change lies in the promise of the youth. Young people bear the potential and the ability to lead and change their communities but may face obstacles in fulfilling this potential - they may be prone to radicalisation or lured into conflict situations and may even be directly involved or trapped in hostile environments at times. It is important to enable young people to play positive and metaphoric roles as ambassadors of peace in their communities and to commit themselves to peacebuilding, reconciliation, and post-conflict reconstruction of communities suffering the aftermath of violence.

Asia is home to a diverse mosaic of cultures, religions, and ethnicities. However, the region continues to grapple with deep-rooted conflicts, sectarian violence, and socio-political tensions. Issues such as religious intolerance, ethnic disputes, political instability, and human rights violations pose significant threats to peace and social cohesion. In this context, a new generation of peace activists is needed—young leaders who are well-equipped to address conflicts with empathy, advocate for justice, and foster reconciliation within and among communities. By investing in the youth as peacebuilders, Asia can cultivate a sustainable movement toward lasting harmony and coexistence.

The CCA, with the cooperation of its constituencies and in collaboration with regional and national interfaith organisations, will continue its popular Young Ambassadors of Peace (YAPA) initiative. The proposed YAPA programme will aim to identify and train a generation of young peacemakers in Asia, who will become agents and advocates of peace.

The first YAPA training programme equipped 23 young ambassadors of peace in June 2016. Subsequently, 25 young people were trained in the second programme in May-June 2017, followed by 27 participants in the third programme in October 2018. The fourth YAPA programme trained almost 30 young people in August 2022.

The YAPA programme has yielded significant results, contributing to the development of young peace leaders across Asia. The initiative has led to an increased number of young peace activists committed to promoting and working for conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and communal harmony in their respective communities. Participants have successfully prepared and implemented action plans upon returning to their communities, strengthening their capacity to combat religious intolerance, address human rights violations, and foster communal harmony. Additionally, the programme has expanded a strong network of young peace activists who serve as instruments of peacebuilding, protection of human dignity, conflict transformation, and enhanced intercultural and interfaith relations. The CCA continues to organise and sustain an interfaith network of young ambassadors of peace in Asia (YAPA), ensuring ongoing collaboration and engagement in peacebuilding efforts.

Young peace activists who attend the programme will have developed competencies to become peace ambassadors in their local and national contexts and will be instrumental in promoting and protecting human dignity, conflict transformation, peace-building, and harmonious intercultural and interfaith relations.



The theme for YAPA - 2025 is ***'Sustaining Peace in Asia through Religious Cooperation (SPARC)'***. Peace is characterised by freedom from fear and want and is a state of security and order. It is only when each person exercises their abilities of self-determination and accountability to their fellow beings peace can be sustained. The CCA aims to promote the building of social relations and political institutions characterised by an ethos of tolerance and non-violence; create a conducive environment where a single entity does not dominate the exchange of ideas, information, and insights but ensures the integration of every stakeholder's perspectives; and leverage the role of religious communities in the prevention, mitigation, and transformation of conflicts. The training will enable young peace ambassadors to foster a culture of peace-building and conflict resolution.

Objectives of the YAPA Training Program

- To affirm and strengthen the role of young people as active contributors in peacebuilding processes;
- To enhance youth engagement in addressing human rights violations, including discrimination and hate speech;
- To foster cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs working in the field of peace and reconciliation;
- To improve the capacity of youth in conflict-affected areas through targeted educational approaches;
- To develop participants' competencies in conflict transformation, intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and the promotion of human dignity;
- To support local-level initiatives led by young peace ambassadors;
- To establish a sustainable Asian network of Young Ambassadors of Peace for long-term impact.

Methodology

The programme is based on intercultural, interreligious, and non-formal educational approaches. The participants will be able to share experiences and support each other in learning the best practices of interconnectedness to act more effectively as a network.

Participant Criteria

- Ages between 20 and 30. Exceptions may be made based on justification;
- Be able to use the English language independently in oral and written communication.
- Be motivated to learn and apply the YAPA values and approaches for peacebuilding upon return to their home country;
- Be committed to promoting peace and work towards conflict transformation through initiatives and projects involving young people.

YAPA-2025 Schedule

YAPA-2025 will be held in person from 7 September (arrival) to 13 September (departure), at Chiang Mai, Thailand. Board and lodging and local expenses of the selected candidates will be borne by the CCA. Limited travel bursaries will also be made available upon request to deserving candidates from countries and regions in West Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Applicants from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan are advised to seek travel grants from their own member churches and councils.

Application and Selection Process

Twenty-five young people only will be admitted to the training course. Those who are interested in applying must complete the (online Google Form) and also upload the following supporting



documents to the Form:

- Curriculum vitae with details of academic qualifications, personal details, and work experiences;
- Letter of recommendation/ endorsement from the applicant's member church/ council/ ecumenical organisation/ institution;
- A scanned copy of the applicant's ID/passport
- Official photograph (scanned digital copy)

The deadline for submitting the completed form with all supporting documents is **30 July 2025**. Selection will be based on competence, gender, sub-regional balances, and the applicant's ability to effectively communicate in English, as well as the commitment of candidates willing to implement peacebuilding initiatives upon their return to their respective countries.

Link to the online Google Form for applications: [CCA Young Ambassadors for Peace in Asia \(YAPA\) - 2025 Application Form](#)

For queries, please write to bp-cca@cca.org.hk.