

Christian Conference of Asia

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Statement by the Christian Conference of Asia on Disasters Across Asia

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) expresses deep sorrow and concern over the recent wave of disasters across Asia. Floods, landslides, fires, and typhoons have claimed hundreds of lives, displaced millions, and left countless people in urgent need of help.

In Indonesia, floods and landslides in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra have killed at least 69 people, with many still missing. Thousands of families have been displaced, and entire communities remain cut off due to damaged roads and broken communication networks.

In Hong Kong, a devastating fire engulfed a high-rise public housing complex in Tai Po district, destroying seven of eight tower blocks. At least 94 people have died, 76 have been injured, and many are missing.

Relentless rains have also battered other parts of the region. In Vietnam, flooding over recent weeks has killed at least 98 people, submerged tens of thousands of homes, and left half a million households and businesses without power. In Malaysia, floods have displaced over 19,000 people. In Thailand, over 2 million are affected and more than 80 have died, yet only 13,000 have reached shelters, leaving most isolated.

In Sri Lanka, heavy rains and landslides have killed at least 56 people, left 21 missing, and affected almost 44,000. Earlier this month, Typhoon Kalmaegi struck the Philippines, claiming 188 lives. While the storm has passed, it serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing toll of extreme weather.

We pray for the safety, resilience, and perseverance of rescue personnel, volunteers, and emergency workers who continue to respond to floods, landslides, and fires. Whether searching through rivers, landslide debris, or collapsed and burning buildings, they face immense danger in inaccessible and harsh conditions. May they be granted strength, protection, and unwavering resolve in their vital humanitarian mission.

CCA stands in solidarity with churches, national ecumenical councils, and partners actively engaged in relief work, joining them in prayer for courage, endurance, and divine guidance as they serve communities in urgent need. We lift up the bereaved, families awaiting news of missing loved ones, and all those affected, praying for comfort, hope, and protection in these times of deep suffering.

These disasters, intensified by extreme weather and climate change, remind us of our shared responsibility to care for creation and protect vulnerable communities. The scale and simultaneity of these crises across the region underscore the urgent need for coordinated regional and global action for mitigation of climate change and environmental degradation.

CCA calls on its member churches, councils, ecumenical partners, and the international community to uphold the affected communities in prayer and extend humanitarian support. May God's love and mercy guide us all to be engaged in extending service and care to all God's people as we respond faithfully to their suffering.

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General Secretary, CCA