



**Christian Conference of Asia**  
**Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly 2026**  
**“Break Every Yoke” (Isaiah 58:6)**  
**17-21 April 2026 | Chiang Mai, Thailand**

***Communiqué***  
***‘Break Every Yoke and Build the Future’***

**Preamble**

We, more than 200 young Christian youth from Asia and beyond, gathered at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 17 to 21 April 2026 for the Fifth Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA), organised by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA). Coming from diverse nations, cultures, church traditions and confessional families across the region, we met amid unprecedented global crises, whose impact is now more evident in Asia. We gathered here as one body in Christ—united in our faith, enriched by diversity, and bound by a shared longing for peace with justice and dignity.

Rooted in prayer, biblical-theological reflections, worship, and dialogue, God enabled us to listen deeply — to one another, to the cries of our people and communities, and to the voice of God calling us in this time of vulnerability. We stand in continuity with generations of Asian ecumenical youth who have journeyed and paved the way before us over the past several decades as part of the Asian ecumenical movement. While honouring their courage and faith, we learn from their struggles, wisdom, and challenges, acknowledging that history offers direction and serves as a warning to remain vigilant. As a generation of young Asians, we are called not to forget, but to remember critically – to discern, to learn, and to carry forward what is life-giving as we build the future. Therefore, we reaffirm AEYA as a sacred and transformative space where young people gather to discern their calling in God’s mission.

While reflecting on the theme “Break Every Yoke” (Isaiah 58:6), we come bearing stories of suffering and despair, seeking resilience and hope. We speak not only for ourselves, but in solidarity with countless young people across Asia and beyond whose lives are affected by forces beyond their control.

**Reading the Signs of the Times**

Asia stands at a critical juncture, caused by intensifying geopolitical rivalries and shifting global power dynamics, especially in the West Asia region. We are witnessing a growing fragmentation of the international order, where multilateral cooperation is weakening and complex patterns of competition, conflict, cooperation, and (dis)integration are unfolding, while power-based interests increasingly dominate. Global conflicts continue to trigger energy crises, rising living costs, and economic instability that disproportionately affect young people. These are not distant realities, but directly impacting the lives, dignity, and futures of young people across the region.

We also experience the deep contradictions of our time. Throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century, while the world has witnessed unprecedented economic growth and advancements in human development, nearly half of the global population continues to live in extreme poverty. Forced displacement, violence, and human rights violations continue to uproot lives and

communities. These realities remind us that beyond numbers and statistics, we live in the midst of vulnerable people and communities—children, families, and communities whose dignity is denied.

We name the “yokes” that burden our lives and communities:

- **Spiritual yokes** as many youth struggle with mental health challenges, loneliness, identity crises, and the erosion of community;
- **Economic yokes** that trap many in cycles of unemployment, underemployment, and inequality, denying dignified livelihoods and fair opportunities;
- **Yoke of forced migration and human trafficking**, driven by poverty, conflict, and ecological crises, which force many young people to leave their homes, exposing them to exploitation and violations of their dignity and human rights;
- **Political and structural yokes** manifested in corruption, lack of accountability, shrinking civic spaces, growing authoritarian governance, and systemic injustice;
- **Yokes of insecurity**, where conflicts, militarisation, and forced displacement rob young people of safety and future;
- **Social and cultural yokes**, including gender-based discrimination and all forms of violence, exclusion, and harmful norms that marginalise the vulnerable;
- **Ecological yokes**, as climate crises devastate communities, displace families, and threaten the future of creation;
- **Technological and digital yokes**, where social media and algorithm-driven systems shape perception, distort reality, and limit critical awareness, leaving many in a state of “conscious captivity” - aware, yet still influenced.

All these yokes are interconnected and are reinforced not only by systems, but also by cultures that normalise injustice. Yet, even within these realities, we witness the courage, resistance, and prophetic voices of young people rising across Asia.

### **Our Theological Affirmation: A Faith that Liberates**

We affirm that God we worship is a God of liberation—one who hears the cries of the oppressed and acts in history to bring freedom and justice. From the experiences of exodus and liberation to the prophetic witness, and through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, we see that true faith is inseparable from the “liberating acts of God” and divine intervention that sets humanity free from bondage.

We affirm that:

- Faith is not merely personal or private; it is calling us to transform unjust systems and restore dignity.
- Young people are the active participants in God’s mission today and ages to come—called, gifted, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- The Church as one body, diverse yet united, called to embody justice, reconciliation, and love in a fractured world.
- God’s vision of salvation is holistic, embracing individuals, communities, and the whole of creation.

In this faith, we are called not only to endure the yokes of our time, but to break them. The pursuit of justice, dignity, and well-being reflects the very heart of the Gospel. We are invited to participate in the *Missio Dei*—God’s mission to restore and liberate all creation—walking together in love for God.

While we are called to break every yoke of injustice, we also hear the invitation of Christ to take His yoke upon us and learn from Him (Matthew 11:29-30). This is not a yoke of oppression, but of grace, gentleness, life-giving, rooted in humility, love, and justice. In embracing Christ's yoke, we are formed as disciples who walk in compassion, courage, and faithfulness. Therefore, we reject all yokes that dehumanise and enslave, and we choose to bear the yoke of Christ, which liberates, restores, and leads us into the fullness of life.

## **Our Pilgrimage of Faith**

In our deliberations throughout this Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly, we encountered God in profound ways: through Scripture, in the breaking of bread, in the songs of resistance, and in the lamentations rising from wounded lands.

We listened to stories of forced migration, statelessness and loss of ancestral lands, of courage in the face of oppression, of communities resisting injustice, and of young people across Asia daring to hope. We prayed in diverse languages, honoured indigenous spiritual expressions, and embraced one another as companions in a shared pilgrimage.

*In our lament, we found truth.  
In our dialogue, we found clarity.  
In our fellowship, we found hope in faith.*

## **Becoming Agents of Transformation**

As young Christians in Asia, we commit ourselves to manifold areas of involvement:

- **Holistic well-being**, addressing mental health with compassion, openness, and community support.
- **Economics**, promoting dignified livelihood, fair opportunities for all youth and ensuring a minimum standard of living.
- **Prophetic witness**, speaking truth to power and challenging injustice in all its forms.
- **Solidarity with the marginalised**, standing alongside migrants, forcibly displaced, minorities, women, and all who are oppressed.
- **Ecological responsibility**, caring for creation and advocating for climate justice.
- **Ethical engagement with technology**, promoting truth, dignity, and accountability in digital spaces.
- **Practising integrity in leadership and daily life**, upholding accountability, honesty, good governance and justice in our churches and societies.
- **Cultivating prophetic courage**, discerning God's voice and responding faithfully even when systems discourage truth and obedience.
- **Engaging digital spaces critically and ethically**, resisting manipulation, promoting truth, and using technology as a tool for justice and meaningful connection.
- **Peacebuilding and reconciliation**, fostering interfaith dialogue, intercultural collaboration, and healing across divisions while translating our reflections into concrete actions in our local contexts.

We refuse to be silent.  
We refuse to be passive.  
We choose to be agents of transformation.

## **We Call for Shared Responsibility**

We affirm that we are not created to live in isolation, but in relationships that reflect mutual care, interdependence, and shared strength. Even in our vulnerability, God provides us with a deeper understanding of humanity and spirituality rooted in our community; therefore,

### **1. To Churches and Ecumenical Bodies:**

We call to move beyond token inclusion of youth by genuinely inviting them to share responsibilities and power in leadership and decision-making spaces; to equip young people with theological depth and practical tools for prophetic engagement; and to stand in solidarity with them, becoming communities that not only care for youth but also stand with them in their struggles.

### **2. To the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA):**

We urge the CCA to continue to provide platforms for youth leadership, invest in their long-term formation, and ensure the continuity of AEYA as a transformative movement. We commit to supporting youth-led initiatives and fostering regional solidarity.

### **3. To Governments and Societies:**

We call for justice, accountability, and the protection of human rights. Address systemic inequalities, ensure meaningful participation of youth in governance, and act urgently to combat the climate crisis. We urge governments to resolve conflicts in a non-violent approach.

### **4. To Fellow Young People:**

We call one another to move beyond comfort and apathy. Let us listen deeply, act courageously, and build communities of justice, compassion, and hope. We invite young people to walk boldly out of our comfort zones and collaborate with others, regardless of our background and traditions. Growth begins when we challenge ourselves, when we dare to take risks for what is right, and when we choose responsibility over indifference. We believe that the future is not something we wait for—it is something we create.

*We believe that AEYA 2026 is not an endpoint,  
But the beginning of a new milestone in our journey together.  
With faith in God, who breaks every yoke,  
We go forth in faith as 'Witnesses of Hope in Asia'.  
We carry with us the stories we have heard,  
The commitments we have made, and the vision we share.  
We affirm our belief that the love of God,  
Which is greater than all understanding, has the power to unite us.  
We affirm the faith that we would be part of God's mission, making all things new.  
We affirm the hope that God enables us to embody through faith in action.  
Together, as one ecumenical family,  
We rise as youth who are unyoked, united, and sent forth.*

– Participants of AEYA 2026 held in Chiang Mai from 17 to 21 April 2026  
21 April 2026