



## Capacity Building of Youth Leadership in Ecumenical Diakonia

*Virtual Workshop | 5-7 August 2026*

### **Background**

Asian societies today are experiencing profound social, ecological, economic, and political transformations. Across the region, communities face the growing impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, natural disasters, forced migration, widening economic inequalities, conflicts, and social fragmentation. These challenges disproportionately affect vulnerable communities and future generations, calling for renewed expressions of Christian witness rooted in justice, compassion, and solidarity.

In response to these emerging realities, churches in Asia are increasingly recognising the need to strengthen ecumenical diakonia as a holistic expression of participation in God's mission. Diakonia today extends beyond charitable service or emergency relief; it involves prophetic engagement with the root causes of suffering, accompaniment of vulnerable communities, advocacy for justice, and the promotion of sustainable and life-affirming societies.

At the same time, churches are challenged to nurture a new generation of leaders capable of responding faithfully and creatively to these complex realities. Young people across Asia are already engaging with issues such as climate justice, environmental protection, community resilience, peacebuilding, digital advocacy, and social transformation. However, many emerging church leaders have limited opportunities for theological formation, ecumenical exposure, and practical training that would enable them to integrate faith, leadership, and diaconal action in meaningful ways.

Recognising this need, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) has initiated the Ecumenical Diakonia Network in Asia (EDNA) as a platform for learning, accompaniment, collaboration, and capacity-building among churches and ecumenical partners across the region. EDNA seeks to strengthen the theological understanding and practical implementation of ecumenical diakonia while fostering mutual learning and solidarity among Asian churches.

As part of a planned series of training programmes and capacity-building initiatives under EDNA, the "Capacity Building of Youth Leadership in Ecumenical Diakonia" Virtual Workshop will serve as the first foundational training for young church leaders and youth engaged in, or interested in, diaconal ministries and community engagement. This inaugural workshop will introduce participants to the biblical, theological, and ecumenical understanding of diakonia, while placing particular emphasis on eco-diakonia as a timely and urgent area of Christian witness in Asia.

Through theological reflection, case studies, interactive learning, and ecumenical dialogue, participants will explore how churches can respond to contemporary ecological crises through environmental stewardship, climate justice advocacy, sustainable community development, and accompaniment of affected communities. The workshop also aims to cultivate a regional network of young ecumenical leaders committed to strengthening the Church's diaconal witness and advancing collaborative responses to the challenges facing Asia today.

By investing in the formation of young leaders, EDNA seeks to equip a new generation of Christians who can provide visionary leadership, foster transformative action, and contribute meaningfully to the Church's mission of justice, peace, reconciliation, and the care of creation throughout Asia.

### **Objectives**

1. Strengthen youth leaders' theological understanding of ecumenical diakonia as an integral dimension of the Church's mission.
2. Equip participants with practical knowledge and skills for engaging in sustainable development, social justice advocacy, and community-based diaconal initiatives.
3. Encourage youth leadership within churches to play a prophetic role in addressing emerging social, environmental, and humanitarian challenges.
4. Facilitate networking and mutual learning among youth leaders across Asian churches.
5. Promote collaborative engagement through the Ecumenical Diakonia Network in Asia (EDNA).

### **Workshop Overview**

The three-day virtual workshop will bring together youth leaders from CCA member churches, national councils of churches, and ecumenical organisations across Asia. Through interactive sessions, presentations, case studies, and group discussions, participants will reflect on contemporary challenges and explore practical models for engaging in diaconal mission.

Key thematic areas include:

- Biblical and theological foundations of ecumenical diakonia
- Youth leadership in social transformation
- Diakonia in contexts of climate crisis and environmental justice
- Community resilience and sustainable development
- Networking and collaboration through EDNA

### **Expected Participants**

- Youth leaders from CCA member churches
- Representatives from National Councils of Churches in Asia
- Young leaders engaged in diaconal ministries, community development, and social advocacy
- Ecumenical partners working in youth and development initiatives

### **Expected Outputs**

- Increased understanding among youth leaders of ecumenical diakonia and its relevance in contemporary Asian contexts.
- Strengthened network of youth leaders engaged in diaconal mission through EDNA.
- Enhanced capacity among participants to initiate contextually relevant diaconal initiatives within their churches and communities.
- Greater involvement of youth and women in diaconal ministries of Asian churches.

### **How to Apply?**

All applications will be accepted online via Google Forms: [Application Form Capacity Building of Youth Leadership in Ecumenical Diakonia - August 2026](#)

### **Application Deadline**

Completed applications for the virtual workshop should be submitted no later than 12 July 2026.

For further enquiries, please contact: [pd-cca@cca.org.hk](mailto:pd-cca@cca.org.hk) / [john@cca.org.hk](mailto:john@cca.org.hk)