



10 August 2020

To  
The Heads of CCA Member Churches and Member Councils

Esteemed Ecumenical Colleagues,

Greetings from the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

We are pleased to inform you that the Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI)–2020 will be held from 2–30 November 2020 via virtual platforms (online).

The AEI, a month-long ecumenical formation training course annually organised by the CCA, is aimed at training young prospective Asian church and ecumenical leaders.

Originally, the AEI–2020 was planned and scheduled to be held from 13 August to 11 September 2020 in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CCA. However, due to the spread of COVID-19, the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CCA has been postponed and the new dates of the CCA Assembly have not been fixed yet.

Considering the present situation of ongoing spread and transmission of the novel coronavirus and the restrictions on international travel, it has been decided to conduct the AEI–2020 as an online course providing lectures through virtual classrooms. Twenty-five participants will be selected to join the online AEI–2020.

A team of prominent theologians and ecumenists with professional expertise at the international level will be the main resource persons throughout the virtual training. Although the AEI–2020 will be conducted through virtual platform, the coming together of participants from various Asian countries and regions will be a unique experience, especially for inter-cultural and inter-denominational exposure. Worshipping and learning from each other's contexts and experiences of emerging socioeconomic and geopolitical realities will enable the participants to acquire the essence, meaning, and significance of ecumenism in a wider perspective.

Admissions will be limited to only twenty-five participants, and selections will be based on competence, gender, and confessional balances, sub-regional representation, and the applicant's ability to effectively communicate in English. The recommendation/endorsement from the leadership of the CCA's member churches, councils, and related constituencies also are needed.

We are also pleased to inform you that ten of AEI–2020's best-performing students will be selected to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the CCA, which will be held in 2021. CCA will cover the international travel, board and lodging, and registration fee of each student selected from among the AEI–2020's students.

AEI–2020’s thematic focus is ‘We are Called to be Stewards of Renewal and Restoration for God’s Creation’, in keeping with the CCA’s 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly’s theme, ‘God, Renew Us in Your Spirit and Restore the Creation’.

The CCA will receive and consider only completed application forms which must be supplemented by additional documents (specified in the Background Information note).

The deadline for receiving the completed application forms is 10 September 2020. Detailed information on AEI–2020 and the application process is available with the attached Background Information note.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours along the journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Mathews George Chunakara', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Mathews George Chunakara  
*General Secretary, CCA*