



## Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA)–2022 *‘Youths as Catalysts for Peace with Justice in Asia’*

### Background Information

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 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. Bearing in mind that the young people of today are the leaders of tomorrow and are destined to guide the fortunes of the world, it is imperative that young people are brought up in the spirit of peace, justice, freedom, mutual respect, and understanding. 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 metamorphic 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 requires a new generation of peace activists committed to the ideals of peace and harmony. Young people in every society have been torchbearers of transformation and structural changes. At the same time, they are also lured into conflict situations in many places in Asia. In some cases, young people are directly involved or trapped in conflict situations, and at the same time, they are also potential stakeholders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. To build a peaceful and harmonious Asia, the youth can play important and positive roles as ambassadors of peace in their communities and commit themselves to peacebuilding, reconciliation, and post-conflict reconstruction of conflict-affected societies. Young people in Asia are in a better position to be catalysts and champions of peace, building bridges between communities, and buttressing Asia’s long-nurtured and valued traditions of religious harmony and coexistence.

The CCA, with the cooperation of its constituencies and in collaboration with other organisations will continue its Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) initiative.

YAPA–2022 will aim to identify and train a generation of young peacemakers in Asia, who will become agents and advocates of peace. The training programme emphasises the links between dialogue, human rights, and conflict transformation as key elements in long-term sustainable peace processes while exploring and developing participants’ knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values.

The young peace activists who attend the programme and undergo the requisite training 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, peacebuilding, and harmonious intercultural and interfaith relations.

## **YAPA–2022: ‘Youths as Catalysts for Peace with Justice in Asia’**

Young people inherit the direct and indirect consequences of conflict and are forced to deal with the long-term inherited societal divisions and underlying conflict. Young people are not only mere victims and witnesses to conflict, but they are often politically immersed in violent conflict situations. At the same time, in many situations, they are an integral part of efforts to resolve conflict, helping communities to recover from violence and initiating creative solutions to longstanding problems.

The knowledge that young people gain from living in conflict and the skills they develop to cope with the challenges they face are a real and dynamic part of the changing context. Involving young people in conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding promotes their protection while giving them further opportunity to gain practical experience in resolving conflict non-violently and healing communities.

Young people are an often neglected yet powerful resource for initiating positive change and building peace from the ground up. Just as young people are more likely to flourish and realise their potential in conditions of peace and security, those conditions of peace and security are more likely to be attained if they are allowed to play a full part. It is in this context that the theme of YAPA–2022 will focus on ‘Youths as Catalysts for Peace with Justice’.

### **Objectives**

The week-long training intends to:

- Enable young people as positive actors and catalysts for change in peace-building processes;
- Assist young people in strengthening their role in identifying and speaking up against conflicts, violence, and human rights violations, and promote communal and religious harmony, especially in contexts where religious intolerance precipitates.

### **Methodology**

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

### **YAPA–2022 Schedule**

YAPA–2022 will be held in person from 7 August (Sunday, arrivals) to 14 August (Sunday, departures), at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Board, 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 South-east 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.

### **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.

## Application and Selection Process

Twenty young people only will be admitted to the training course. Those who are interested to apply must complete the [online Google Form](#) and also upload the following supporting documents in 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 short Country Report essay describing (i) one's educational/volunteer/professional experience and ecumenical/church/interfaith involvement; (ii) problems in one's country and community; and (iii) efforts needed and being made to address the problems
- 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 **13 July 2022**. Selections will be based on competence, gender, and 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: <https://forms.gle/6YBp3Z5EkHb68veD7>

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