

WSCF Asia Pacific 2008 Annual Report



World Student Christian Federation Asia Pacific (WSCF AP)
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Message from the Chairperson of WSCF Asia Pacific

Dear **WSCF AP Friends**,

Greetings and wishing you peace and the love of Jesus Christ!

As we all know WSCF AP is actively engaged in God's ministry in the different contexts in this region. It carries out its ministry by responding to the needs of human beings and all of God's creation. At present, we are all effected by the Global Economic difficulties while we continue to confront the many challenges of poverty and injustices in our own countries.

When you look at the Creation Story in the Book of Genesis 1:27, God created human being according to His own image. Although we are of different races and colours, we are all God's children. We are called to follow the Word of God and His will for all of creation. Without love or empathy to others we are unable do anything for those who need our help. As SCMerS we need to consider what we have to do for God's Ministry.

When I was an SCM student, I remember one of my senior friend telling me that " As an SCMer, you must carry the Bible in one hand and the news paper in the other hand." These words has inspired me to be active in the work of the SCM in our soceity and strengthen my faith in God. This has not been easy but I tried my best to find the meaning of God's Words from my daily experiences and struggles.

The annual report of 2008 WSCF AP will shown us the life of WSCF and its efforts to do God's Ministry in today's world. I hope that all the movements will get more ideas and inspiration from the report. I hope that The Standing Committee and Women's Committee for 2008-2010 will carry out the mission of WSCF AP with outstanding activities for students and youth. I believe that God will guide us and lead us on our activities of WSCF AP through out the year 2009and 2010.

I would like to conclude with the Book of Joshua Chapter 1:9 to be strong, pray, and depend on God so that the way of WSCF AP is more powerful and understanding.

I wish all the best for all the SCMerS in A-P region.

In Christ,

YinYin Maw
Chairperson
WSCF Asia Pacific (2008-2010)

Message from the Regional Secretary

Once again we are happy to share with you the 2008 Annual Report of WSCF AP region. Thru this Report, we aim to provide you with details of how WSCF AP continues its ecumenical witness with and among young in the Asia-Pacific region. We also hope that thru this Report we can collectively reflect and analyze the year that has passed and plan the future work of Federation in the Asia Pacific region.

The external condition in the region in 2008 was characterised by major natural disasters and disasters brought about by human greed and frailty. Two major natural disasters hit the region in the first quarter of the year, Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the Earthquake in Sichuan Province China. In the later part of the year, the Communal violence in Orissa, India happened, and subsequent violent attacks happened in Mumbai. The civil unrest in Thailand turned to worst when protesters halted the operations of the Bangkok International Airport in the same period. Globally, we experienced the worst oil and food crises in years, and even before these were resolved, the global economic meltdown happened, triggered by the collapse of the US Economy. The year ended with massive lay-off of daily-wage earners those that were already living in the margins of our societies. These were the social challenges in which the SCMs and WSCF were called to respond in the year 2008.

In 2008, we lived-out 'diakonia' in the spirit of fellowship and global solidarity when in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, the WSCF and SCM community overwhelmingly responded to our appeal for support and solidarity for the people affected by the deadly Cyclone. Our 'SCM Spirit' were strengthened by the work of our students in SCM Myanmar, who despite the limitation of their condition and resources, taught us valuable lesson of solidarity and action in times of great need.

We continue to challenge traditional divides of denominationalism and secularism by insisting that grassroots ecumenism thru the Asian Student and Youth Gathering (ASYG), truly works among young people of different religion, denominational background and that the way to 'Just Peace' is by coming together and working together in the grassroots. The SCMs continue to be the driving force in building the National Ecumenical Teams (NETs) in many countries in the region by taking leadership and by embodying the ecumenical spirit themselves.

We committed ourselves in pursuing the issue of 'Migrant Rights as Human Rights' by bringing greater awareness on Migration issues among the SCMs and building stronger links with Migrant communities and groups, culminating in our participation in the International Migrants Refugees Assembly.

We gathered and celebrated the 34th General Assembly of the Federation in Canada, where we challenged each other, embraced our diversity, and found ways to move forward as a global community of youth and students with renewed spirit and hope.

Thru the various programs in 2008, WSCF AP provided the space from which students can articulate their experiences and context and form analysis that are important in their witness. We saw this happening in the SET, ASYG, HR and Women's Programs.

These would have not been possible without the efforts and contribution of various people and groups. We thank the out-going members of AP Standing and Women's Committee for their valuable contribution and commitment to WSCF; to Paddy Noble, our volunteer Human Rights Coordinator; to the SCMs who have become our partners in organizing the programs and activities; and lastly, our Church partners and supporters, who have encouraged and entrusted to us the valuable resources that has enabled WSCF AP to continue its service and ministry to God's people.

In Grace and Peace,

Necta Montes Rocas
Regional Secretary

Human Rights and Solidarity Program (HRSP)

WSCF AP's HRSP continues to be one of its strongest program enabling Christian students to contribute in the effort to protect and respect the dignity and human rights of all people. Specifically, the program aims to provide the SCMs in the Asia Pacific regions with Human Right education to enhance their participation towards human rights and peace advocacy, gender justice work and strengthen their capacity to respond to human rights solidarity work.

In 2008, efforts were focused in strengthening the mechanism of planning, monitoring, coordination or HR advocacy work at the regional level through the HR Committee, deepening awareness and participation in the issue of Migrants Rights, and participation in HR and Justice and Peace campaigns in the region. The following are details of these engagements.

WSCF AP Human Rights Committee Planning Workshop February 21 to 26, Bangkok, Thailand



The first face-to-face meeting of the WSCF AP Human Rights Committee was held from February 21 to 26, 2008 at the Student Christian Center (SCC) in Bangkok, Thailand. It had the following objectives:

- To evaluate the Human Rights Defenders (HRD) Training and International Youth and Solidarity Mission (IYSM) 2007 and follow-through its recommendation
- To develop the framework document for WSCF Human Rights Work (Vision, Aims and Objectives, Basis and Principles)
- To come-up with a two-year strategic plan for WSCF Human Rights Work (2008-2009)
- To identify the themes, strategies and activities for WSCF AP Human Rights Work
- To share the concerns and plans of the national SCMs on Human Rights and develop guidelines to help them develop their Human Rights work

The HR Committee was proposed in September 2006 following the mandate by the WSCF AP Regional Committee to strengthen and increase student participation in the decision making structure for the Human Rights Program. Since then, the HR Committee has been actively meeting online to plan for HR regional programs and activities of WSCF AP until it finally met in 2008. The meeting was attended by Committee members, **Paddy Noble** (HR Coordinator), **Immanuel Gopala Kitnan** from SCM Sri Lanka, **Yustin Pasaribu** from SCM Indonesia, **Inbaraj Jeyakumar** from SCM India, **Leni Valeriano** from SCM Philippines, and **Necta Montes Rocas**, WSCF AP Regional Secretary. Other Committee members who could not join the meeting were, Hannah Angus from Australia SCM and Kaythi Min Din, SCM Myanmar due to prior commitments.

In the Meeting, the Committee members traced its history from the HR Working Group Meeting in 2005 and clarified its functions as an interim body of the AP region. Its main function is to, “to become the center of campaigns for WSCF AP and to build solidarity among the SCMs in the region.” Realizing the need to sustain the work of the Committee, the group proposed to institutionalized the HR Committee in the WSCF By-Laws, ensuring transition and equal representation from each sub-region. Guidelines for selection of Committee members were also proposed during this meeting. The job description of the Human Rights Coordinator was also finalized during this meeting.

The Meeting listened to the report of the Human Rights Coordinator on how the 2007 Human Rights Defenders (HRD) was conducted and the evaluation of the participants. Feedback was also collected from networks and groups involved in the International Youth and Solidarity Mission (IYSM) organized after the HRD Training. From these reports, the HR Committee discussed and evaluated the impact of the HRD Training and the IYSM. The Meeting also came-out with a two-year Regional Human Rights Advocacy Plan and identified the vision of the HR Committee as the following, “The Student Christian Movements of the Asia Pacific region are called to be a prophetic voice to restore human dignity, to achieve just, peace, freedom and harmony.” A Workshop was conducted to identify the current Human Rights issues in each country in the region and analyze the link and root causes of these problems before the planning ensued. The following thematic areas for WSCF AP’s Human Rights work was identified in the next two years: (1) Migration (Human Trafficking and Migrant workers); (2) Education; (3) Political Repression “Anti Terrorist Law”; (4) Ecological Destruction; (5) Corruption; (6) Land/ Indigenous Peoples.

The HR Committee Meeting also finalized the plans for the WSCF Human Rights Workshop in 2008, which is to be held from June 2 to 10, 2008 in Bogor, Indonesia with theme Migration and Internally Displaced People. The SCM Indonesia (GMKI) will host this Workshop. The content of the Workshop was also discussed with emphasis on both providing theoretical framework in Human Rights work and practical skills in Human Rights advocacy work.

Human Rights Workshop on Internally Displaced, Migration and Trafficking in 2008 June 2-10, Bogor, Jawa Barat, Indonesia



The WSCF AP Human Rights Workshop on the theme, ‘Youth, Migration and Human Trafficking’ was held from 2 - 10 of June 2008 in Bogor, Jawa Barat, Indonesia hosted by SCM Indonesia (GMKI). It gathered together 30 young people who are Human Rights officers or Coordinators of the SCMs in Asia Pacific to learn and share

about the social, cultural, gendered, political, religious and economic problems concerning 'forced' migration and human trafficking. It had the following specific objectives:

- To deepen awareness on the situation of Migrations and Human Trafficking and develop analysis on the effects of neo-liberal globalization on these issues.
- To strengthen the faith dimension of the students by providing biblico-theological understanding on the issue of Migration and Trafficking.
- To understand existing mechanisms locally and internationally on migration and human trafficking, such as the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of their Families, and relate this to the national context.
- To come up with plans of action in support of Migrants and Trafficking issues and their advocacies, locally, nationally and regionally.
- To provide opportunity for students to develop their Advocacy Skills using the migration and trafficking issues as a specific example.

The Workshop had the following components in its program:

A keynote presentation on the Regional and Global Context and Perspective on Migration and Human Trafficking was presented by a migrant leader, **Connie Bragas Regalado** from a Migrant organization called MIGRANTE. A Student Panel Presentation was organized on specific issues of Migration and Trafficking from the perspective of participants from Australia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, Korea and Taiwan. An input on Migration, Trafficking and Human Rights (*UN International Conventions on Migration*) and Case Studies on Human Rights, Migration and Trafficking from **Mr. Wahyu Susilo** from Migrant organization in Indonesia.



These inputs from resource persons, country reports from participants and group discussion helped participants to understand the varied aspect of forced migration and trafficking in different countries, such as forced marriage between migrant women and local men in Korea and Taiwan, the right of abode for mainland Chinese women coming to Hong Kong, the Labor Export Policies (LEPs) in the Philippines and Indonesia, trafficking of Thai women for prostitution to Australia, cross-border trafficking in Thailand, child-trafficking in India, forced migration due to the armed conflict in Sri Lanka.



The Workshop enabled participants to deepen their analysis of the problems experienced by people who are 'forced' as migrant workers or victims of human trafficking, and draw parallel stories from the Bible Studies presented by **Rev. Emmi Sahitian** and reflect upon their role as Christian youth in responding to the problem of Migrations and Trafficking.

Without confining the participants to the discussions and bible studies, they saw the face of migration as they were exposed to the realities of Indonesian migrants settled in the 2 villages of Sukabumi in West Indonesia. They understood the pain and pathos of the Migrants as they lived and interacted with families and migrants returnees from Malaysia and Middle East, who shared their experiences and grievances. Families feared for the

lives of their loved ones who have left them to work abroad but are now missing. Stories of physical abuse, sexual

abuse, none payment of salary, overworking by the employers and exploitation by recruitment agencies were common among the almost 30 families they lived and shared their time during exposure. Without seeing the help from the government, migrants fall prey to unscrupulous agencies and syndicates, who victimize them again and again even in their own locality where they come from. The so-called development impact of migration claimed by the Indonesian government is contradictory to the current living conditions of the migrant people and their families in these communities.

At the last two days of the Workshop, a skills training on Human Rights Advocacy work was led by **Necta Montes Rocas**. This session included inputs on the nature and objectives of Human Rights Advocacy Work, the aims and objectives of Advocacy Work, Stages of Advocacy, Forms and Techniques of Advocacies and Advocacy Plan. At the end of this session, participants were able to develop their HR Advocacy Plans at the national level.

As a result of our collective learning experiences in the Workshop, the participants came out with a statement entitled, “Let My People Go!” and the following action plan:

As Individuals;

- Volunteer for organizations who help victims/survivors of trafficking and forced migration
- Participate in rescue missions, campaigns and advocacy actions
- Share our experiences and learning to fellow SCMs, and other Forums and groups
- Create network among participants to continue the exchange of ideas and discussion.

As a collective of SCM;

Education and awareness raising

- Researching Case studies on social impact of migration among young people
- Development of awareness programs in schools and universities
- Education programs about the realities of forced migration, globalisation and related sectors.(Training, workshops, rallies, pamphlets
- Bible Study and Practical Reflections

Organizing

- Strengthening and expansion of SCMs
- Development of Fellowship programs among Migrant Workers.

Advocacy and Solidarity Actions

- Advocacy on related issues
- Resistance against globalisation, and *colonial* education.
- “Arouse, organize and mobilize”

Networking

- Establish linkages with WSCF in wider regions, international cooperation on the issue of Migration and trafficking.
- Establish relationships with local NGOs
- Continual development of statements and proposals.

Furthermore, we recommend the following concrete actions consideration of the WSCF AP and the global community;

1. Join efforts to call on governments to sign the Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
2. Stop the exploitation of Migrants Worker through the Labor Export Policies of governments.
3. Promote, Protect and uphold the Human Rights of all Migrant Workers and Trafficked people.
4. Stand in solidarity with the struggle of Migrant Workers by joining the International Migrants Alliance (IMA) as an associate member.
5. Participate in the International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees, during the Global Forum on Migration and Development
6. Urge the WSCF Global Federation through the General Assembly to participate in global campaigns to protect the Migrants and Trafficked People.

“LET MY PEOPLE GO!” (Exodus 7:16)

Justice for Migrants and Trafficked People

(Statement of the WSCF AP 2008 Human Rights Workshop on Migration and Trafficking)

We the 30 participants¹ of the WSCF AP Human Rights Workshop on the theme, ‘Youth, Migration and Human Trafficking’ held from 2 - 10 of June 2008 in Bogor, Jawa Barat, Indonesia, gathered together to learn and share about the social, cultural, gendered, political, religious and economic problems concerning ‘forced’ migration and human trafficking. The workshop enabled us to deepen our analysis of the problems experienced by people who are ‘forced’ as migrant workers or victims of human trafficking, draw parallel stories from the Bible and reflect upon our role as Christian youth in responding to the problem of Migrations and Trafficking.

Migration of people and human trafficking are over-arching themes in the Bible, as we explored in our bible studies. In Exodus, we were encouraged by the example of Moses, to go out and proclaim to “LET MY PEOPLE GO!” from bondage, slavery and exploitation. In Leviticus, we understood God’s intention of liberating people from slavery and economic injustice by freeing the slaves and returning their properties in the “Year of the Jubilee.” Both biblical texts speaks powerfully of the parallelism in the conditions and aspirations of migrants and trafficked people today and the Israelites in the Biblical times.

The inputs from our resource persons, country reports from participants and group discussion helped us to understand the varied aspect of forced migration and trafficking in different countries, such as forced marriage between migrant women and local men in Korea and Taiwan, the right of abode for mainland Chinese women coming to Hong Kong, the Labor Export Policies (LEPs) in the Philippines and Indonesia, trafficking of Thai women for prostitution to Australia, cross-border trafficking in Thailand, child-trafficking in India, forced migration due to the armed conflict in Sri Lanka.

Without confining ourselves to the discussions and bible studies, we saw the face of migration as we exposed ourselves to the realities of Indonesian migrants settled in the 2 villages of Sukabumi in West Indonesia. We understood their pain and pathos as we lived and interacted with families and migrants returnees from Malaysia and Middle East, who shared their experiences, and grievances. Families feared for the lives of their loved ones who have left them to work abroad but are now missing. Stories of physical abuse, sexual abuse, none payment of salary, overworking by the employers and exploitation by recruitment agencies were common among the almost 30 families we lived and shared our time during our exposure. Without seeing the help from the government, migrants fall prey to unscrupulous agencies and syndicates, who victimize them again and again even in their own locality where they come from. The so-called development impact of migration claimed by the Indonesian government is contradictory to the current living conditions of the migrant people and their families in these communities.

Our Analysis of the problem

Political instability and the internal conflicts within many countries in the Asia Pacific region drives people to migrate and seek shelter elsewhere. Armed conflict within ethnic groups, human rights violations, abductions, disappearances, political persecution force people to flee and secure their

lives in other countries as refugees and asylum seekers. In some of these countries, interference by developed countries, thru aid and armaments fuels and aggravates the conflict.

The post 9/11 and US led “War on Terror” has impacted and changed world-wide immigration policies in developed countries, victimizing migrant workers and immigrant communities in the US, Canada, UK, and Australia. While we are against Terrorism, we condemn immigration policies and practices that segregates and fuels discrimination and violence against people of certain racial background.

People migrate not because they enjoy working abroad far from their loved ones, but because the economic conditions in their countries force them to do so. Governments, following the dictates of neoliberal globalization, are unable to provide its people employment opportunities in their home countries. Instead, governments enter into multi-lateral and bi-lateral trade agreements or Free-Trade Agreements (FTAs) following the WTO and IMF-WB regulations. Under these agreements, policies of trade liberalization, privatisation and deregulation, developing countries are unable to protect their national economies from the onslaught of capitalists interest aiming for zero tariff. Furthermore, basic social services are privatised and are no longer accessible to the people under these agreements.

Finally, neoliberal globalisation encourages Labor Export Policies (LEP), as the way of “solving” the economic problems of developing countries. The local labor forces of developing countries are commodified and bought on cheap prices. They are exported overseas as migrant workers, and are neglected of their rights and benefits as workers. Remittances from migrant workers are used to props-up ailing economies and as payments of foreign debts. LEP are used to overhaul educational system of developing countries, imposing education curriculum and courses that will generate endless source of cheap labor for the global market. In the Philippines, the Revised Basic Educational Curriculum was implemented, after the dictates of IMF-WB, teaching students to forget nationalism in order to meet the “global demands” or that they be “globally competitive.”

Majority of the migrant workers and trafficked people in Asia and the Pacific are women and young people. This is because of the position and value of the women in the society. The nature of work of migrant women are extension of the traditional role prescribed to women in society, such as care-givers, nurses, entertainers and domestic workers. Young women migrant workers are also most vulnerable to violence and sexual abuse, as women are seen as properties that can be dominated and exploited. Women migrant works endless hours, in hard labor and with less pay in the Middle East and Malaysia. Conditions of women trafficked into prostitution are far worst than women migrant workers.



The International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR) 28 – 30 October, Manila, Philippines



The International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR) was held on 28th-30th October at the Bay view Hotel, Manila. Around 180 delegates from different parts of the world attended the assembly. The theme of the International Assembly was - *“Migrants Challenge to the GFMD: End poverty, ensure jobs at home, stop forced migration! Uphold and Protect the rights of Migrants and Refugees!”* The 3 days assembly consisted of presentations by activists, workshops on the issue of migration from different NGOs /Civil societies and students movement, plenary, speak out by the migrants, protest/rally. The IAMR was a platform for the activists, advocates, migrants and the like minded groups who are working for and with the migrants to oppose and stop forced migration. The presentations on the topics were – The Political Economy of Migration and development- Promotion and Protection of Migrants rights: Issues and Challenges - Unmasking the Labor Export

Policies of sending countries - War and globalization: impact on migrants and refugees and A critical analysis on the GFMD process.

“The youth are not for export, the youth’s future is not for sale” and *“No to forced migration, no to labor export”* were the slogans by the students and youth during a demonstration on October 27, joined by WSCF AP, SCMP, the International Youth Action Day spearheaded by national youth groups in the Philippines together with the Asia Pacific Students and Youth Association (ASA) and International Movement of Catholic Students Asia Pacific. The youth and students came to the street and demanded for a decent life in the home country. The young women from the WSCF AP were symbolically put the boxes written – *“Nurses, Care takers, Domestic helpers, entertainers, mail ordered brides for export”* The women were chanting *“We are not for export, we are not for sale”*

IAMR critiqued the neo-liberal framework of GFMD—liberalization, deregulation and privatization—its promotion even by imperialist countries to replace the “official development aid” to underdeveloped countries and exploit the desperation of people of poorer countries to move out of their countries primarily for economic survival. According to the IAMR, “While there is some truth that remittances temporarily alleviate the financial woes of families of migrants, this perverse notion signifies greater commodification of migrants and the perpetuation of conditions for cheap labor, not to mention the social costs of migration, especially on children and families.” The IAMR convinced that forced migration is the modern day form of slavery. While the presentations unmasked the labor export policies and the agenda to sustain the ailing economy of the country by critical analysis the migrants shared the bitter truth of the misery and their suffering in the foreign land. The IAMR was also a space to build the international solidarity to address and confront the issue of migration in a more systematic manner.

The international community of IAMR came down to the street to show their solidarity and oppose the ongoing GFMD, which is paving the way for forced migration. The huge rally walked in the street of Manila chanting the slogans – No to GFMD, No to Forced Migration, No to labor export, No to Modern day of Slavery, Create jobs at home etc.

On 30th October many NGOs organized workshops on Migration from various perspectives. *Global Migration and Education: Dissecting the Links and Impact of Globalization on Education the Youth and the Family* was organized by the WSCF AP, Asian Students Association, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, and ANAKBAYAN-ILPS Youth Commission.

Prof. Robyn Rodriguez, IMA International Coordinating Body member and a Filipino immigrant in the United States, shared of some historical events which present relevant experiences in organizing and raising awareness of migrants as well as the second-generation immigrants. She also discussed of how the legacies of US colonialism and imperialism in the underdeveloped countries also have an impact on the policies for labor export.

Prof. Sarah Raymundo, member of the Congress of Teachers and Educators for Nationalism and Democracy, and Ken Leonard Ramos, chairperson of Anakbayan (Sons and Daughters of the People) presented insights on the state of education in colonies and neo-colonies, and how globalization policies in education are imposed so that people, especially the youth, are sent out of their countries to add up to the workforce in receiving countries.

REFLECTIONS

The Human Rights Program has raised the level of awareness of young people that has enabled greater visibility and ability of our movements to respond to Human Rights issues and concerns in different countries. Examples of advocacy campaigns that the SCMs and WSCF have taken an active role are the struggle for HR and Democracy in Burma, Communal Violence in Orissa, Extra-judicial Killings in the Philippines, the communal violence and tension Pakistan. In all these issues, WSCF AP and its member movement were able to respond and act in solidarity with the people because of the presence of our movements in these countries and the degree of HR awareness developed over the years.

The Regional Human Rights Workshops held once a year has encouraged our movements to form Human Rights Desks and appoint HR officers in the National Movements. These are mechanisms to sustain work in Human Rights and raise awareness of young people on Human Rights in the Churches and schools at the national level.

Because of the growing consciousness on Human Rights issues, it has also brought interest among young people to participate in global campaigns such as the Campaign for Migrants Rights in the Global Forum Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Manila last week of October 2008. Fifteen young people from SCMs in the region participated in the parallel events organized by people's movements to raise the voices and issues of the Migrants in this UN platform.

There are tremendous risks involved in Human Rights work in the following countries where we have actively worked with students: Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Myanmar. Our young SCM members in some countries have been harassed, imprisoned, intimidated and killed for their work. In the recent years, four of our young members in the SCM Philippines have been summarily executed by para-military forces because of their involvement in people's movements. Our SCM leaders in Indonesia have been imprisoned after participating in anti-oil price hike protests and their office violently attacked and destroyed by para-military forces. Our members in India have been imprisoned after participating in the peaceful protest to stop communal violence in Orissa, and an SCM fellowship hall of the students was burned down. The movements of our members in Burma are constantly watched by the military for so-called 'illegal activities' and they are fearful of their lives and safety whenever they criticize the military junta government.

In all these cases of Human Rights violations and abuses, we have filed cases against the perpetrators seeking justice to the victims and sent international appeals to our networks to stop these violations and bring to the attention of governments and authorities. Another concrete step that we have taken to address this situation is by providing Human Rights education to our member movements. Our Human Rights Defenders (HRD) Workshops attempts to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to respond to issues of Human Rights violations and protect themselves from further abuse and violations.

Leadership Formation Program

Student Empowerment for Transformation (SET) on
“Young People Responding to the Challenge of Climate Justice”
 August 19-24, Sun Cheon, Korea



The Student Empowerment for Transformation (SET) Programme was held from August 19-24, 2008 at Sun Cheon, Korea. The seven days training programme was hosted by the Jung –bu Church Presbyterian Church, and organized by the WSCF AP in collaboration with the Korean Student Christian Federation (KSCF). Twenty-five (25) students and senior friends representatives from the National SCMs participated in this program. They came from the following countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Timor Lest, Myanmar, Australia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Korea.

The goal of the SET program was to strengthen the Christian witness and response to the issues brought about by the growing destruction of the environment through an environmental training camp among youth and student in Asia and the Pacific. The objectives were:

- A] To raise the level of awareness of young people from the churches and schools in the Asia Pacific on the issue of environmental protection and climate justice;
- B] To mobilize young people in the churches and their communities to implement at least three (3) affirmative actions and projects that will respond to concrete needs and problems in their local communities on climate change and environmental protection;
- C] To learn and experience eco-friendly practices during the Training Camp that would enable participants to understand theoretical concepts with actual practice and encourage young people to promote these practices in their own communities;
- D] To gather support from the churches, local communities, NGO’s and environmental groups to support and engage young people to protect the environment;

The training consisted of thematic input, bible studies, exposure, video presentation on environmental issues and presentation by the participants about the present environmental situation in their respective countries. Resource persons were invited to facilitate the above activities.

The thematic input on the topic Global Environmental Situation was led by Ms. Theresa Conception, an environmental activist and the Regional Director for Earth Island Institute, Manila, Philippines. This session gave an overall scenario of the global environment and a systematic analysis of the degradation of eco system, direct and indirect drivers of

ecosystem changes, and the its relationship to the historical development of human societies. In her presentation, she narrated that the historical developments of human society have changed from primitive communal to capitalism/ Industrial societies. The utilization of forest and natural resources has gone beyond human need to human greed, which has paved the way for the growing consumerist culture by exploiting our environment for economic profit. One of the indirect drivers of the destruction of the environment was greater extraction of raw materials from developing countries for sale or trade to richer countries (liberalization, deregulation, privatization), posing a threat to the global eco-system. This session helped the group to raise the level of awareness on the issue of environmental protection and climate justice and also helped them to critically analyze why today we have the threat of global warming.

During the workshop group sharing from countries on environmental issues – the participants shared and presented the challenging environmental issues from countries like Korea, Australia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Bangladesh. This session led to a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of the issues, the challenges and the root causes of the problem.

The first Bible Study was conducted by Prof. Yani Yoo, faculty of the Methodist Theological University, Seoul on the theme “Water knows No Colour, No Boundary: Its for all” (John chapter 4). She said water is for all as Jesus the living water is for all. But today over 1 billion people still lack of access to safe water and nearly 2 billion lacks safe sanitation. The Bible study helped to reflect and share the problems and struggle related to water issues in our own countries, and how students and young people will respond this issue at home, Church, Community.

The Bible Study 2 & 3 were conducted by Rev. Park, Sang Yong on the *theme “The Holy Spirit’s cry among Creation’s Cries” (Romans 8:18-26) and” Look at the lilies of the field and birds of the air” (Matthew 6:25-34)* Both the Bible studies were insightful – as Rev. Park interpreted the text as the crying of whole creation allows a new awakening of faith, i.e Paul feels the invisible crying of Spirit through the visible crying of creation. And the 2nd Bible study helped to recognize, experience the nature to empower us.

The Exposure programme was a unique experience to most, as the group visited a community called Indramang. This is a community of people who decided to live life differently and returned from Seoul to build this community in this village. They do organic farming and share the resources among the community members. This community is resisting to the consumerist culture of life and has adopted the simple life style. The participants had an opportunity to work with the farmers in the farm. This was a live in experience training programme to learn and experience eco friendly practices in person and promote the concerns in the community.

Finally, the session on planning together to save and protect the environment helped the group to take affirmative actions to act as stewards for God’s creation and protect them. The participants planned specific ways in their movements and as individuals to help save the environment in many ways.



Regional Women's Program

RWP- SCM Pakistan Joint Women's Programme
From Gender Sensitivity to Genuine Partnership
 April 4-7, Lahore, Pakistan.



The RWP-SCM- Pakistan JWP was scheduled to be held in Pakistan in the year 2007, but due to the political turmoil in the country it was not possible to go ahead with our scheduled plan in that year. Finally the said programme was organized on the theme *From Gender Sensitivity to Genuine Partnership* which was held from April 4-7, 2008 at the Ecumenical Centre, Lahore, Pakistan.

The Goals of the programme were:

- To create a space for the young women and men in SCM Pakistan for a deeper understanding on gender that would lead to equal representation of women and men in SCM Pakistan
- To critically analyse the root causes of the violence and injustices against women in Pakistan and the impact of religious laws and ordinance for women in the country
- To challenge and transform attitudes, structures and system in Church that limits young women's participation and leadership
- To re-read the Bible critically with new eyes from the perspectives of gender and partnership
- To experience the realities of women in Pakistan and strengthen the women's struggles in the country by joining in advocacy programme through exposure.

30 men and women from Multan, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, and Lahore participated in the programme representing SCM-Pakistan and Church. The content of the programme were: *Gender analysis, Socio-economic-political-religious aspects of Women in Pakistan – Critical analysis, Women's rights and laws, Bible Studies from the perspectives of partnership and Exposure to the community.* The inputs by the resource persons were insightful to understand the root causes of violence against women in general and in Pakistan in particular. Gender analysis defined how it's constructed and the societal roles given to men and women which reflects the present status of women in the country. Bible studies were conducted from the perspectives of Partnership of women and men, which was welcomed by the participants to promote the concern in collaboration with the Church.

The following resource persons were present to facilitate the sessions Miss Ayra Inderyar (Women Coordinator Lahore Diocese), Miss Nazish Naseem (Women Coordinator NCC-Pakistan), Ms. Tabeta Abdia (Senior Friend, Lecturer, Forman Christian College, Lahore), Mr. Mohsin Zia (Advisor SCM Rawalpindi Unit), Prof. Hanook Fethe Jung (Advisor SCM Lahore Unite), Rev. Emric Joseph (Advisor SCM Faisalabad Unite), Mr. Ezra Shujat (Senior Friend, Advocate High Court)

The organizers and coordinators expressed that organizing the event on the said topic for an Islamic country like Pakistan was a great challenge. The Church and society is very much patriarchal, orthodox and conventional in nature when it comes to women. Hence it is not easy to talk openly about Man & Women in Partnership even within the Church. Nevertheless, the initiative was welcomed by the group from SCM and Church and recommendations were made to advocate the concerns in the community in collaboration with the Church in order to achieve gender justice. The participants felt empowered at the end of the programme and the senior friends of SCM Pakistan are delighted to see the earnest enthusiasm of SCM Team in Pakistan, as this was the first national event of SCMP after a long gap – which also played a role to rejuvenate SCM Pakistan after many years.

South Asia Sub Regional Women's Programme on Young Women Leadership Formation June 14-20, Dhaka, Bangladesh



The Sub Regional Women's Programme was held on June 14-20, 2008 at KARITAS, Dhaka, Bangladesh on the theme; *Women's Response to the growing concerns of Poverty, Trafficking and HIV/AIDS: Challenges and Hopes*. 12 young women from South Asia participated in the said programme, representing the national movements of SCM Bangladesh, SCM India, SCM Pakistan and SCM Sri Lanka

The Goals of the programme were:

- 1) To provide a common platform to the young women from the National SCMs to share experiences, exchange ideas and plan of actions to advocate effectively.
- 2) To nurture and enhance their leadership capacities by creating awareness on the emerging trends and develop skills for critical analysis and different mechanisms to address the issue in their communities.
- 3) To provide them an exposure and live in experience with the women affected by the issues of Migration, Trafficking, Women in war conflicts, Prostitution, /HIV /AIDS, and poverty in general.
- 4) To derive inspiration and develop perspectives from theological reflection and contextual Bible studies.
- 5) To make them understand international covenants and conventions like the CEDAW
- 6) To help them developing strong network with other like-minded women's groups who are working on the issues and strengthen the movement and develop a common strategy at the Regional level deriving the insights from their countries to combat violence against women.

The content of the workshop was planned to discuss and reflect on Gender analysis, Sharing of the contemporary realities of women in South Asian countries by the participants – followed by analysis, Women, Poverty Trafficking and HIV/AIDS- South Asian Context, Role of CEDAW to stop VAW, Core challenges in ending VAW– and Different Mechanism to address VAW, Role of SCM Women in their community to promote gender justice, Bible studies from the perspectives of women and Exposure to the community.

Gender Analysis was conducted by Ms. Mohuya Nizam, Programme Manager – Rights, from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Dhaka. She analyzed the gender stereotypes through various exercises and activities to understand how gender is constructed by the environment we live. She explained how women and men are conditioned and forced to accept the societal given roles and responsibilities to fulfill society's expectations. She also emphasized that this gender conditioning to maintain our life as woman and men has a direct implications especially for woman in the area of social, economic, political and religious field.

Contemporary realities of women in South Asian countries was a sharing session by the participants. The participants were asked to prepare on this topic from the context of their own countries, prior to the programme. The participants shared and reflected the issues and conditions of violence against women in their countries. The sharing session brought the common realities, and struggle of women in their regions, which helped the group to analyze how patriarchy is the manifestation of violence against women in every society and they were surprised to see the common concerns of women from every South Asian countries.

The interlink of the issue of poverty, trafficking and HIV/AIDS and its impact on women was dealt by Ms. Rowshon Ara, Dhaka Ahsania Mission. She explained the push and pull factor of the growing concern of trafficking in women. She said majority of women are living in abject poverty with no choice for survival. On the other hand the sex trade is growing as billion dollars business across the globe. The sex traders take the advantage of the vulnerable situation of women to exploit them and they are easily accessible for exploitation. Every year around 15,000 women from Bangladesh are being trafficked to the brothels in India and Pakistan. The situation in the country is pushing women to accept the exploitative way of survival. She said trafficking in women must address seriously, by Governments implementing laws, by communities and civil societies.

There was a session on CEDAW by Professor Mahamuda Islam, from Gender Studies Dhaka University and also the head of the Women for Women in Dhaka. She introduced the convention and the significance of the convention. She said, though CEDAW is ratified by the South Asian countries, every country has the reservation to certain articles which is also creating obstacles to implement this convention. Moreover it's important to bring awareness of CEDAW among the grassroots women which is not happening in our society.

The role of SCM women to promote gender justice was conducted by Ms. Keka Adhikari – Senior friend of SCM and WSCF. She also serves as the Director of the HR department of The Leprosy Mission in Dhaka. Keka shared about her journey in SCM as a woman, her leadership role in the local units and in the region as the member of the Regional Women's Committee. She also explained in brief about the importance of women leadership in the national SCM and in the federation, her inspiration from other women in the federation which motivated her to commit herself to work in the SCM Bangladesh. She also tried to emphasize the challenges during her time and in today's context as a woman leader. Her personal sharing was also quite inspiring to other young women in the programme.

The Bible studies were conducted from the perspectives of women by Sunita Suna, the Regional Women's Coordinator, WSCF AP, Ms. Monisha Helen Sarkar, Asst Gen. Secy YWCA, Dhak and Bishop Mondal, the patron of SCM Bangladesh. The Bible studies were focused on the Re reading the Bible from the women's perspectives, Contextual Bible study on Violence against Women and the contribution and leadership role of women in the Bible.

Exposure Programme was a different experience for the group. They visited 3 different organizations. 1. *Durjoy Nari Sangha*, working for the upliftment and empowerment of commercial sex workers, 2. *Mukta Akash* is creating awareness and working with people living with HIV/AIDS and 3. *Badhan Hijra Sangha* – The transvestites' community. The group interacted and met with the women in the community to understand the realities. Their true stories of exploitation enraged the participants for the unjust systems where always women face the brunt of it. The group also visited the shelter for the children of the commercial sex workers. The exposure was quite moving when the group met with this community. The main intention of the exposure was to expose the realities and suffering of women in the society, and to change our attitudes towards the people who are marginalized in the main stream society.

South East Asia Sub Regional Women's Programme on Women and Migration 24-27 October , Manila, Philippines



The Programme was held from 24 – 31 October 2008, at the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, and the Bay View Hotel, Manila, Philippines. Ten (10) young women from the National SCMs of Myanmar, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Philippines, Hong Kong and Korea participated in this programme. The program was divided into two parts, the first part was an orientation on women migrant issues, the GFMD and Biblical Theological reflections on migration and in the second part the participants participated in the IAMR through different activities.

The Goals of the programme were:

- To understand the issue of Migration and critically analyze the implications from the perspectives of women
- To develop awareness on the GFMD and challenge the policies of labour mobility across the globe with the IAMR community.
- To expose and experience the negative implication of migration by organizing 'Exposure programmes' to the community for the participants.
- To reflect on the theological understanding from the perspectives of women and migration
- To network with other like-minded social groups, participate in the event of IAMR and organize workshop on Dissecting Global Migration and Education

Ms. Connie Bragas-regalado from Migrante International took a session on Women and Migration from the Asian context - A Critical analysis. Connie was the most important resource person for this session to explain the plight of the migrant workers, especially the female migrant workers who herself was a domestic helper in Hong Kong for around 10 years. Connie gave an overall understanding of the issue of migrant workers from her own experiences and explained the labor export policy of the government who decided to export people as migrant and failed to provide decent jobs to the people in the home country – Philippines and elsewhere.

She said, as the country's situation deteriorate by unjust structure to elevate poverty, corruption, deregulation and monopoly more and more Filipinos are forced to migrate to other countries in search of livelihood. Its an alarming situation for all of us, that today the female migrants from the Philippines have topped the male migrants and the figured has reached to 179.006 female migrants for 123.668 male migrants. This also shows that the situation of women is becoming more vulnerable day by day and they are left with no choice but accept the exploitative way of survival. Connie, shared many incidents of rape, physical assault, mysterious deaths and inhuman working condition of the Filipino women migrant workers. She said for the Philippine government, migration is not a problem and does not indicate deeper social problem – it is a natural phenomenon and a human right, a viable option to anyone

who wants to improve his or her life. The state appears as merely managing the natural movement of persons. The top export is the Filipino migrant women – the wife, mother, sister- whose only option out of poverty and joblessness is to work abroad whether as entertainer or as domestic helper. Its small wonder why the exploitation and oppression of OFWs has become more intense and more unbridled. This session was very much helpful to understand the female migrant workers especially the Filipino migrants. This was also an eye opening for some participants, as they were told how badly the women are treated by the receiving and sending countries.

Ms. Jazz Lumang, the executive director of IBON Foundation took a session on Critical analysis on GFMD. She gave a clear understanding of GFMD and the interlink of the Neoliberal globalization and GFMD and how it implements the policies of liberalization, deregulation and privatization. She said migrants represents 2.9 percent of the global population of these almost half (48.6%) are women. Today the remittances by the migrants has reached to US\$226 trillion. The real objectives of the GFMD is to continuously offer the neo liberal policies to various countries and systematic labor export for “development” equal to commodification. The significance of GFMD to the Philippines is labor export programme. The impact of the GFMD to migrants are migrants’ wage, service, employment protection and rights are always under attack. In neo liberal globalization the interest of business and profits are given more importance over the rights and welfare of the people. She said, our stand is we don’t want GFMD because this is an instrument of neo liberal globalization to use remittance for “development”, which does not answer the roots of forced migration and overall it doesn’t uphold the rights, wellbeing and interest of migrants. Jazz’s session could enabled the participants to understand the real agenda behind GFMD and the future consequences of the labor export policy.

The Bible study was led by Ms. Liza B.Lamis, National Council of Churches in the Philippines on the theme ‘Today’s Sarah and Hagar in Dialogue. Liza’s Bible study was from the context of the Philippines. She said, the phenomenon of the overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) 60% of whom are women, underlines the class division between first world, rich women and third world poor women. In re reading Hagar’s story in view of the life experiences of OFW, the shared oppression of rich and poor women are brought to light as well as patriarchy in dividing women - thus continually perpetuating its self. She raised some of the thought provoking questions like what are the possibilities of a dialogue that would bring a fuller life to these women and their children. How can the Hagar’s and

Sarahs of today support each other and reject the working of patriarchy? The Bible Study on the said topic was a relevant theological reflection from the context of the female migrant workers in the Philippines and other developing countries.



For the Exposure the participants visited Tatalon, the Urban Poor community in Quezon City. Tatalon is the living example of the neo liberal globalization in the Philippines. The population of Tatalon is around 110,000, and they live in dire poverty. The exposure to this community was shocking for all to see people living in cubicles with no sanitation facilities. The living condition of people is inhuman. The community leader said, Government doesn’t pay any attention to the misery of this community rather there is always threat from the government of demolishing our houses.

According to the community people they came to this area and settled since 1960s. but they don’t own the land and very recently MERALCO an Electricity Company is claiming the village and guards are employed to keep an eye on people. MERALCO provides electricity to many in the city, yet the people of Tatalon live in darkness in spite of having the presence of the company they do not have access to the electricity. Our group interacted with the women leaders of *Samakana – Samaban Ng Maralitang Karbabai Hans Nagkakaisa (Association of United Urban Poor Women) community in Tatalon* and

they explained about their suffering. Their husbands are migrant workers in Saudi and other countries struggling to send money back to their families to keep them alive. Since the government doesn't help them in any ways so the people especially the women organized themselves and form this association in the year 1997 with one chapter as the Day Care Centre for the street children. Today it has 7 chapters, serving the community in the areas of health, and hygiene, education, micro financing for small business and organize women to create awareness and empower women to resist Violence against women.

The intention of the exposure to this community was to expose the realities of the abject poverty people live with and the disparity between the rich few and poor many. The widening gap between these two communities is the example of the liberalization, deregulation and the insensitivity of the irresponsible government towards her people. participants were shocked to see the living condition of the people. Philippines is also a place for the skyscrapers shopping malls. As the shopping malls mushrooms the slums spreads along with it. After seeing the situation and listening from the women leaders the group was able to understand the situation that how they are forced to leave their country and migrate for their livelihood. There is no good news to the poor in this community by the government but impose them to accept the labor export policy and leave the country to survive their family as well as the government through the remittance.

REFLECTIONS

The Women's Program in 2008 has benefitted young women by providing a common platform from each sub-region to share experiences, exchange ideas and plan of actions to deal with the patriarchal and stereo typical societies, and advocate gender justice effectively in their communities.

Young women have potentials and creativities to bring change and make a difference in their communities. It is important to create space for young women who are vulnerable in our society to come forward and empower themselves by enhancing their leadership potential. They will be the agent of change as they dream for a better world.

This has created awareness and educated women on the emerging trends of trafficking, forced migration, HIV/AIDS and helped to develop skills for critical analysis and different mechanisms to address the issue in their communities. It has enhanced their leadership qualities to work confidently in their community. It has provided them with concrete experiences with the community of women affected by forced Migration, Trafficking, Prostitution, HIV/AIDS, and poverty in general. The theological reflection and contextual Bible studies have strengthen their faith perspective on the issues of suffering women.

Language barrier was another challenge during the programmes. Though we celebrate the diversity of Asia and the Pacific at the same time we are challenged to adopt English as the medium of communication for the programmes. So we had to do additional arrangement for the participants who needed interpretation to express their ideas and participate actively during the programmes

During the individual and group evaluation the participants expressed that the programmes were unique experience for many which was informative and challenging on the issue of forced migration and the inputs were insightful to identify the root causes like patriarchy, social norms, values, culture and traditions that implements or sanctions violence against women in different level. Some of the participants have shared in their evaluation that this programme has an impact in their life which has motivated them and made them strong to work for women in their society. Moreover during this process they felt more confident as women and the programme helped them to change their attitudes and mindset towards the marginalised and oppressed people of the society. Their spirit is uplifted and some of them can work confidently in their leadership roles in the SCMs. They also think that young women are mostly neglected and they should be given more priority and space to articulate for a radical thinking.

Some of the immediate action plans by the participants were - creating space in the local SCMs to share the resources, educate and bring awareness among the student community about their rights as women. And strengthen the movement to work for the gender justice in their community. The exposure to the community has certainly challenged them so they would plan to arrange a similar kind of exposure for the students in the local SCMs to expose the realities and have a live in experience with the community.

Ecumenical Partnership and Networking

EASYNET Coordinating Team January 6-9, Manila, Philippines

The EASYNET Coordinating Team (CT) met on January 6 to 9, 2008 at the IMCS and IYCS House in Las Pinas, Metro Manila, Philippines. The meeting was attended by regional representatives of the member organization of EASYNET; namely, Bipul Alite Gonsalvez (IMCS), Bonny Leonard Palma (IYCS), Mr. Art Sadorra, representative of Ms. Tina Dalope (APA-YMCA), Mr. Wataru Arizumi (EASY Net Coordinator), and Ms. Necta Montes (WSCF AP). The 3-day meeting focused its attention on the following agenda, sharing of plans from each member organization, review and evaluation of EASNET 2007 programs, updates from the National Ecumenical Teams (NETs), financial report, 2008 program and action plan, 2008 fund sourcing, and 2008 CT process.

Highlights of the CT Meeting was the planning session for the upcoming Asian Student and Youth Gathering (ASYG) 2008, where the CT decided to hold the event in Seoul Korea from August 25 to 31 2008 and proposed its content. Prior to this meeting, the Local NET in Korea has expressed willingness to host this important event, hence the CT proposed a Preparatory Meeting in Seoul in late February to be attended by EASYNET Coordinator Wataru Arizumi and Bonny Palma.

Now on its third event, the theme for the ASYG is, “Youth Breaking Boundaries, Creating Conditions in Building a Culture of Peace”, aiming to gather 140 young people from the different groups and member organizations of the 6 network organization in Asia Pacific.

The CT expressed its appreciation to Bipul Gosalvez of IMCS for moderating the CT in 2007, and invited WSCF AP representative, Necta Montes as the next moderator of the EASYNET for 2008. Sharing his reflection as outgoing moderator of EASYNET, Bipul emphasized the need “ to strengthen our commitment to grassroots ecumenism and encourage more young people to join in the movement.”

Asia Pacific Student and Youth Gathering (ASYG) on “Youth Across Boundaries: Redefining the Culture of Peace” August 24 -31, Yong In City, Korea



The 3rd ASYG was held from August 24 to 31, 2008 at the Yong-in Youth Center in Korea. ASYG is a quadrennial event organized by EASYNET to promote ecumenical cooperation and grassroots ecumenism in different countries in the Asia Pacific region. The ASYG was attended by 100 young people representing the six-member organization of EASYNET, namely; WSCF AP, Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCA, IMCS, IYCS, YWCA, CCA Youth and guests from WCC.

Rev. Dr. Seo Gwang Sun from Korea led the Opening Worship with a sermon entitled, “ Making Peace: Global Leaders Mission Impossible? In his sermon, he challenged the young participants to take-up the ‘Great Commission of Peace Making,’ for well-being and for the whole Creation. He also shared his personal experience of growing-up during the Second World War and the suffering that his family has endured during this period, including the execution of his father

by the North Korean Security forces. The Keynote Speech was given by Lesley Capus from the Philippines where he likened ASYG to the Korean concept of “Sarangbang” or a peace/love room in traditional Korean houses. He emphasized the need for young people to engage in peace-building education to promote the culture of peace among the young generation. The Bible Study Sessions were led by Emma Cantor from the Philippines on Exodus 1: 8-21 and Dr. Yani Yoo from Korea on the book of 1 Samuel.

Highlights of ASYG were the Exposure Program organized by the Local Host Committee in nine (9) different places namely; The House of Sharing, Vinyl House, De-Militarized Zones (DMZ), Borderless Village, Canaan Farmer’s School, Life Friendly Rural Farming, Mugunli US Military Training Camp, My Sister’s Place. The Exposure Program provided in-depth understanding on the issues of War and Militarism, Women’s Exploitation, Globalization, Environment, Migration and Urban Housing Problems. Thru this program the participants were able to relate the theme of the ASYG to concrete issues in Korea.

Other highlights of the program were the National or Country Presentation, where participants from each country presented issues and situation of their countries through exhibits and creative presentations in a “Market Place.” Thematic Workshops were also organized on four main themes: Empire Building in Asia; Ecumenical and Interfaith Cooperation; War and Militarism; Ecological Crisis and Sustainable Development. ASYG concluded with a plan of action and statement expressing the participants commitment to Peace-building and continuing ecumenical cooperation at the grassroots level.



Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Gathering (ASYG) 2008

Statement of Shared Understanding

We, the 95 young people of different churches and faiths representing 20 countries gathered for the Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Gathering (ASYG) with the theme *Youth Across Boundaries, Redefining the Culture of Peace* on August 25-30, 2008 in Yong In, Korea.

We believe that peace based on justice is possible, and together we shared inspiration through study, reflection and collective action planning towards the achievement of the culture of peace.

Our Reflection

We are longing for a harmonious society where different nations live together peacefully. We long for a world in which our similarities and our differences are celebrated with equal joy.

Peace begins with the absence of violence, but encompasses a state in which all living creatures, including humans, can thrive. We denounce all kinds of injustice, violence, exploitation towards God's people and creation and we will restore peace to make our world the best possible place for all to live.

Today, we are confronted with the reality of war and armed-conflict that has caused the death and destruction of people's lives in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, southern Thailand and Philippines. We view with deep concern the continuing suppression of people's democratic voices in Burma. We are particularly concerned with the tension caused by the continuing division of North and South Korea and the US Military presence in this region. We condemn the violence and sexual exploitation of women at all times, especially within the US Military bases area.

There is no peace when majority of our people are denied of their basic right to food, water, shelter, health and education. We believe that the current global neo-liberal economic policies that has further aggravated conditions of un-peace when the poor and marginalized are dying of starvation and poverty. We join the people in rejecting Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that destroys the livelihood of farmers and workers, and infrastructure projects that threatens the environment in the name of profit and development. We are concerned with the plight and condition of migrant workers, immigrant brides in Korea who are experiencing discrimination and hardship in their host countries.

God has created the earth with abundance and our natural ecology must be cherished and protected. We reaffirm that peace can only be achieved through a commitment to basic human and ecological rights for all. Peace on earth is peace with the earth.

As people of faiths, that which unites us is far greater than that which divides us. We believe that if the peoples of the world are willing to grow in understanding our differences, we can work together to effectively solve the problems facing humanity.

Our Call to Action

1. Mandate and continue to provide a space for youth to grow, network and interact with others globally.
2. For local, national and regional organizations to stand and be active in overcoming political, social, economic and ecological injustices.

3. Identify the root causes of social, cultural, economic and ecological issues including poverty, women and children, migration, human trafficking. and climate change in local communities and provide a space for programs on education, awareness and analysis for possible solutions and alternatives.
4. Acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate the richness of our region in its diverse cultures, values and traditions by religious, family, community, ecumenical peace gatherings.

Our Commitment

As the youth of the Asia-Pacific region, we, commit ourselves to action to bring about the reign of peace on this earth. We commit to learn about the complex causes of suffering, in order to act effectively for our peoples and our global community. We are determined to find solutions which require long-term commitment, and action on many levels.

We call upon everyone to join us in this endeavour, and to open our lives to the spirit of God who gives peace in the midst of conflict.

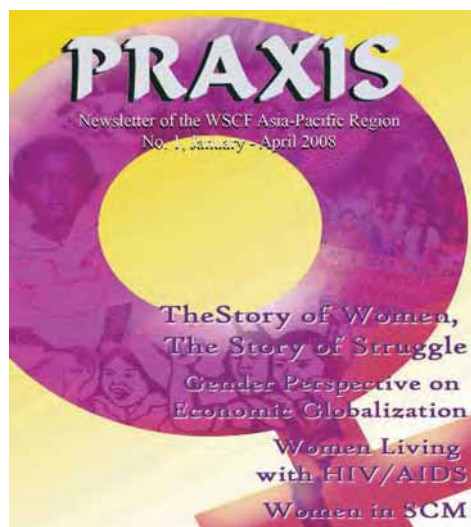
“But once more God will send us his spirit. The wasteland will become fertile, and fields will produce rich crops. Everywhere in the land, righteousness and peace will be done. Because everyone will do what is right, there will be peace and security forever. God’s people will be free from worries, and their homes peaceful and safe.” (Isaiah 32:15-18)

ASYG 2008 Participation Organizations:

Asia Pacific Alliance of Young Men Christian Association (YMCA)
 Christian Conference of Asia Youth (CCA)
 International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS)
 International Young Christian Students (IYCS)
 World Council of Churches (WCC)
 World Student Christian Federation Asia Pacific (WSCF AP)
 Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)



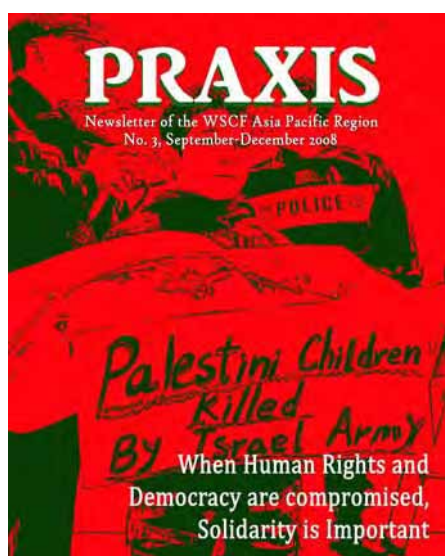
PRAXIS



Praxis, WSCF AP's official publication, continues to be a viable tool of communicating the voices and concerns of young people in the SCMs and the issues that concerns their lives. Although the circulation is limited, about 500 copies worldwide, this is sent to school libraries, organization, teachers and member movements where possibilities of reproduction is high. Praxis is also sent online to a wide-range of readers, primarily to people who have access to internet. Many of the articles in PRAXIS has been re-produced as materials for educational purposes in local activities and programs of SCMs and youth groups. Although the mode of communication and sharing of reading resources has drastically changed to internet-based, we hope to maintain the published PRAXIS to reach-out to wide audience that has no access to internet for various reasons.

In 2008, (3) three issues of PRAXIS were published. The first issue (no.1 January-April 2008) was on the theme, "Women, Poverty, HIV-AIDS," it published articles on Economic Globalization and the Free Market from a Gender Perspective and an article on the experience of a young woman working with people living with AIDS entitled, "Enlivening the Faith: Women HIV and AIDS." The issue also featured news of events, articles from the region and national movements.

The second issue (no.2 May-August 2008), dealt on the issue of the Culture of Peace with articles on Youth and the Culture of Peace and biblical reflection the WSCF General Assembly theme, "Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophecy." This issue featured reflections of the experiences of two delegates to the WSCF GA.



The third issue (no. 3 September – December 2008) on the theme of Human Rights, Justice and Peace. The banner article was a reflection on the Christian response towards the communal violence that took place in Orissa, India and the biblical reflection on Human Rights.

WSCF AP Governance

WSCF General Assembly August 1-9, Montreal, Canada



The 34th General Assembly (GA) of the World Student Christian Federation was held from 1-9 August 2008 at the College Jean de Brebeuf in Montreal, Canada with the theme “Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophecy” (Joel 2: 28). Attending the GA were (160) one hundred and sixty delegates coming from the 109 member movements of the Federation, senior friends, officers, staff, and guests. There were 13 delegates from the Asia Pacific Movements, 7 senior friends, and 1 Exco member and the Regional Secretary.

On July 31st until August 1, GA participants joined the Men’s and Women’s Pre-Assemblies programs. The contents of the Men’s pre-assembly included bible study group focused on a text of the adulterous women, a workshop on understanding the role, impact of masculinity and gender issues within the society, a presentation of the white ribbon campaign about men’s violence against women. Participants to this event commented that the Men’s pre-assembly program was inspiring, motivating and challenging. The Women’s pre assembly event consisted of bible study group, a women’s leadership empowerment session which included training of proactive participation in the decision making, envisioning sessions and a half-day exposure program on Canadian women’s leadership and political history. The delegates were hosted by Senator Nancy Ruth, senior friend of SCM Canada, at the Senate Chamber in Ottawa. At the Canadian Parliament grounds, the women delegates held a short liturgy to honor the five Canadian foremothers who fought for women’s rights to participate in the political exercise of the country, heralding the a new phase in the Canadian women’s struggle for equal participation and liberation.

The keynote speakers for the GA were Revd. Dr. James A. Forbes Jr., a renowned African American preacher & theologian and leader of the US “Let Justice Roll” living wage campaign; Dr. Reubem Alves, a renowned theologian, educator, psychoanalyst and author in theology and theopoetics from Brazil; Senator Nancy Ruth, feminist and advocate of women’s rights and social change in Canada; Rev’d. Dr. Patricia Kirkpatrick, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Hebrew Bible scholar from McGill University, Montreal, Canada and Dr. Gregory Baum, an influential Canadian Roman Catholic theologian and ecumenist, a Professor of theology and sociology at the University of Toronto and Professor of Theological Ethics at Montreal’s McGill University, Canada.

There were four GA Commissions designed as a space of envisioning and planning for the future of the Federation. These commissions were Raising prophets: Ecumenical leadership formation 1st commission, Prophecy in Action : Advocacy and Solidarity 2nd commission, Radical Renewal : Biblical and Theological 3rd commission, Making the Vision real : Capacity Building 4th commission. Every day the Assembly's delegates would gather together with resource persons led by the two moderators to discuss concerns related to the focus of commission and then to make plan priorities which were presented to the assembly plenary on August 8th 2008 as guideline for the next quadrenium's strategic directions.

The common themes that emerged from the work of the GA Commissions were Interfaith Engagement; Environment and Climate Change; Economic Justice (poverty, food crisis, fuel); Diversity and Discrimination (ethnic, indigenous, sexuality, religious).

As the highest decision making body of the Federation, the GA has made several important decisions. These were the affiliation of four new national movements into the Federation, namely; The Iraq Christian Youth Council (SCM Iraq), MEC por la Equidad of Mexico (SCM Mexico), The Movimento Estudante Cristao Timor Leste (SCM Timor Leste), Movimento Ecumenico de Estudantes de Teologia /MEET Brasil (SCM Brasil). The GA likewise elected the new officers of the Federation in the next quadrenium. These were; Mr. Horacio Mesones (Uruguay) as Chairperson, Ms. Janejinda Pawadee (Thailand) as Vice Chair, Michael Wallace (Aotearoa/New Zealand) as General Secretary; and Mr. Youhanna Kammal (Egypt) as Treasurer.

The incoming Exco Representatives were also appointed in this GA. They were:

Asia Pacific : Ms.Bronwyn Crowe (Australia), Mr. Immanuel Gopala Kitnan (Sri Lanka)

Europe : Mr.Torbjorn Askevold (Norway), Ms.Hannah Satlow (Austria)

Latin America & Carribean : Ms.Sarahi Garcia Gomes (Cuba); Marcelo Leites (Uruguay)

Midde East : Sammeh Effat (Egypt), Carla Khijo (Lebanon)

North America : Ms. Alice Glaze (Canada), Mr. Noah Gillespie (USA)

Resolutions on contemporary issues addressing critical political, economic or social concerns that affect WSCF's members in different parts of the world were made by the general assembly as well. They were resolutions on human right issue in the Philippines, resolution on the situation in Burma, resolution on self determination in Middle East, resolution on military conflict in Georgia, resolution on Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon



Pre-RCM Women's Meeting "Your Daughters Shall Prophesy" July 24-26, Hong Kong



The Pre-women's meeting was held from July 24 -26 2008 at the Chungchi University, Hong Kong on the theme 'Your Daughters shall Prophesy'. 10 young women from the National SCMs of Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Australia attended the event. The Women's Pre-Meeting is vital in the history of WSCF AP, to ensure the active participation of women in the Regional Committee Meeting, the decision making bodies of the WSCF AP and the General Assembly the highest decision making body of the whole Federation, and prioritize women leadership and women's concerns in SCMs.

The Goals were:

- § To understand the historical significance of the women leadership within the WSCF Asia Pacific region and the federation as a whole and the importance of the Regional Women's Programme
- § To do theological reflection on the theme 'Your Daughters Shall Prophesy'
- § To share and reflect of the National Women's Programme by the members
- § To evaluate and re visioning the Regional Women's Programme
- § To discuss and promote women leadership – beyond the General Assembly of WSCF
- § To Select / elect the Regional Women's Committee for the biennial (2009-2010)

Rev. Phyllis Wong, the minister of the Kowloon Union Church, Hong Kong led us to the Bible study on the theme Your Daughters shall Prophesy (Joel 2:28-29) that was a channel for much discussion focused in the area of feminist theology, women's rights, body politics, what it means to dream, visioning, and being a prophetess in our time.

Sunita Suna the regional women's coordinator gave a comprehensive history of the women's leadership in WSCF. The presentation opened some discussion on the partnership model of leadership in the federation and raised concerns of the present women leaders in the local SCMs – how to support and motivate the women leaders in the region.

National Women's Programmes reports were shared by the participants. The reports were prepared to share on the issues women are facing in their countries and the kind of programmes/activities initiated by the SCMs to address the issues, challenges and the women leadership in the national movements. Though the participants shared from different countries' perspectives - the women's issues/concerns were similar. They shared that most of the countries are facing the challenges of –

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- § Patriarchal system, traditional beliefs of ethnic groups, Societal expectations to behave in a certain way, stereotype (media objectification), discrimination to equal opportunity for education
 - § Domestic Violence - law is not implemented and considered DV private matter
 - § Discrimination in the workplace,
 - § the issue of Sexuality - Taboo, a tool to oppress women, the issue of virginity
 - § Church tradition sanctions violence and marginalizes women, Reproductive health, Conservatism in Catholic Church,
 - § Violence against women migrants, the issue of internal migrant workers, mail order brides (identified as an international problem), power relations between individuals and nations
 - § Militarism (US troops presence), Sexual trafficking of women and children, HIV/AIDS
 - § Lack of space and opportunity for women in the legislatures

The National movements had initiated different activities in the local level to educate and bring awareness on the above mentioned women's issues/ concerns. For example, Korean Student Christian Federation sends young women for Women's Internship e.g BATIS centre in the Philippines, incorporate feminist theological perspectives in programs. There is a need of gender sensitivity programs in KSCF. SCM Philippines have initiated an education Curriculum on women's plight and Philippines women's movement, campaign against militarism, protest (Nicole and Hazel), Justice Campaign (sherlyn and Karem), the students who are abducted and campaign against military abuse to women and children. Hong Kong SCM organized activity on women's sexuality and discussed on the play the Vagina Monologues. Japan SCM organized gender sensitivity workshop under the "Miriam project", a project formed to work for the empowerment of women. Myanmar SCM organized leadership programmes for young women in co-operation with women volunteered and other groups on trafficking. And also mobilized women to observe the International women's day, Myanmar women's day in a meaningful way. SCM Indonesia is facing challenges to work among the women's group. The women leaders in Indonesia SCM were not able continue the women's programmes in 2007-2008. They are re thinking of the present model of the women's committee in the region. SCM Timor Leste organized women leadership programmes through the Women Doing Theology.

The final session was electing a new set of members for the Regional Women's Committee to work for the next biennium 2009-2010. The role and function of the RWC was read and explained from the by-laws so that participants were informed of the process. There was much deliberation on the nominee's ability to commit to the RWC for two years. Sub-regional and student/senior friend balance were taken into account. It was then decided to recommend the following nominees for RWC 2009-2010. Cha Eun Hye – KSCF- Korea; Ashari Rhoda John – SCM Sri Lanka; Thin Siden – SCM Cambodia; Bronwyn Crowe – SCM Australia (Ex co); Wanyun Poon – SCM Hong Kong (Standing Committee).

WSCF AP 18th Regional Committee Meeting Chinese University in Hong Kong



The 18th Regional Committee of WSCF AP was held from July 24 to 30, 2008 at the Chinese University in Hong Kong. The meetings were attended by representatives of 17 affiliated National Movements and 1 Associated Movement.

The RCM elected the new set of officers for WSCF AP for the 2008-2010 biennium. The following were elected to serve the Federation; Chairperson: Ms. Yinyin Maw, senior friend from SCM Myanmar; Vice-chairperson: Mr. Jahartap Yustin Pasaribu, SCM Indonesia, student; Exco Members: Ms. Bronwyn Crowe, SCM Australia, senior friend; Mr. Immanuel Gopala Kitnan, SCM Sri Lanka, student; Proxies for Exco Members: Ms. Leni Valeriano, SCM Philippines, student; Mr. Park Byung Chul, SCM Korea, senior friend; Member-at-Large: Ms. Wanyu Poon, SCM Hong Kong, student; Mr. Bartin Gomez, SCM Bangladesh, senior friend. New Regional Women's Committee Members for 2008-2010 were also elected, they were Ms. Bronwyn Crowe, SCM Australia; Ms. Wanyu Poon, SCM Hong Kong; Ms. Cha Eun Hye, SCM Korea; Ms. Ashari Rhoda John, SCM Sri Lanka; and Ms. Thin Siden, SCM Cambodia.

Highlights of the RCM were the approval to recommend SCM Timor Leste as affiliate member of WSCF in the WSCF General Assembly. This recommendation was accepted by the WSCF Exco and 34th General Assembly in Montreal, Canada. Another was the acceptance of the amendments proposed by the WSCF Human Rights Committee to the WSCF AP By-laws to institutionalize the Human Rights, Justice and Peace Committee (HRJP), its function and role and composition and the position of a Human Rights, Justice and Peace Coordination on an interim and volunteer basis.

The following themes have been approved for 2009-2010 programs: Student and Higher Education and Militarism in 2009, and the proposed venue for regional programs are India and Bangladesh in June. For 2010, Indigenous People, Education right PNG (Australia, New Zealand, and Indonesia), Refugees, Christmas Island and the venue is the Pacific. The Human Rights Internship Program in Cambodia on movement building and working with the NGO life (issue: interfaith and ethnic conflict, border), and 2010 on Migrant workers in Taiwan.

The RCM also approved the invitation put forward by the SCM Indonesia (Gerekan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia) to host the next Regional Committee Meeting in 2010 in Indonesia. We thank SCM Indonesia for this gesture and invitation.

Movement Visits (Fiji, Aotearoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste)



The WSCF Regional Secretary, Necta Montes Rocas, visited Fiji island from November 16 to 20 and Aotearoa/New Zealand from 21 to 26, 2008. The aim of the visit was to re-establish contacts and networks in the Pacific Islands and explore possibilities of revitalizing ecumenical student movement in the South Pacific Islands. The visit to Aotearoa New Zealand aimed to discuss and meet with senior friends, university chaplains and students to strengthen the work of the SCM in the campuses.

During her visit to Fiji, Necta was hosted by the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) in Suva. She met with Raju Fong and Makoni Pulu, program staff and the interns of PCC to discuss the concerns and issues of young people in the Churches and the work of the

PCC among the youth. She also met with students leaders of Student Life and Christian Fellowship at the University of South Pacific (USP), students and School Principal Rev. Epineri Vakadewavosa of the Devalevu Methodist Theological College, students of St John the Baptist Anglican Seminary and Rev. Tevita Banivanua, General Secretary of South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS). She also visited and met with Wise Ramoce, Youth Program Coordinator of the ECREA. In summarizing her visit to Fiji, Necta commented that, "the visit yielded different avenues and possibilities in which WSCF can work in partnership with established church and ecumenical institutions such as PCC and SPATS in serving and working with the youth and students in the Pacific islands, particularly in ecumenical leadership formation."

In Aotearoa New Zealand, she met with senior friends and university chaplains in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. In Wellington, SCMA National Committee Group (NCG) members, Suni Abraham and Michael Perkins organized a get-together with senior friends on November 23, where possibilities of reviving the student group at the Victoria University was discussed. Necta also visited Ramsey House and met with Dr. Tim McKenzie, the university chaplain of Victoria University. In Christchurch, NCG members Fiona Dalton and Mandla Duble organized a get-together at the St. Giles Church Hall where more than 30 senior friends and a few student members came to discuss the situation and future of the SCM. She also visited the SCM office at the Church World Service (CWS) building and met with the CWS staff.



WSCF 2008 PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

January

- 4 – 8 Philippine Human Rights Working Group (PWG) Meeting, Hong Kong
- 7 – 9 EASYNET Coordinating Team Meeting, Manila, Philippines
- 22 United Board ACHEI Welcome Dinner for Dr. Abregana, Hong Kong
- 23 Ecumenical Christian Unity Prayer, Hong Kong
- 30 HK Burma Campaign Meeting, Hong Kong

February

- 13 – 20 WSCF Global Staff Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
- 22 – 25 WSCF AP Human Rights Committee Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand
- 28-29 Movement Visit to Cambodia

March

- 9 Interfaith Candlelight Vigil for Justice and Freedom for Women in Burma, Hong Kong

April

- 2-6 Movement Visit to Timor Leste
- 7-9 Movement Visit to Indonesia
- 4-7 WSCF – SCM Pakistan Joint Women's Program, Lahore, Pakistan

May

- 17 Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Victims of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, Hong Kong

June

- 4 Prayer Vigil for "Tiananmen Massacre Victims," Hong Kong
- 3-10 WSCF AP Human Rights Program on Migration and Trafficking, West Java, Indonesia
- 14 - 17 International Migrants Alliance Founding Assembly, Hong Kong
- 14 – 20 South Asia Sub-sub-regional Women's Program on Poverty, Trafficking and HIV/AIDS, Dhaka, Bangladesh

July

- 23 – 25 WSCF RCM Pre-women's Meeting
- 26 - 30 WSCF Regional Committee Meeting
- 31 July – 10 August: WSCF General Assembly, Montreal, Canada

August

- 19- 24 Student Empowerment for Transformation (SET) Program
- 25 – 31 Asian Student and Youth Gathering (ASYG), Seoul, Korea

September

- 10 Meeting with Christine Elliot-Hall and Pearce, UK Methodist, Hong Kong

October

- 23 Meeting with Johann Hasselgren of CSM, Hong Kong
- 24-27 Southeast Asia sub-regional Program, Manila, Philippines
- 28- 30 International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR), Manila, Philippines

November

- 1 Meeting with Andrea Mann, Anglican Church of Canada, Hong Kong

- 3 – 8 WCC Assembly Discernment Committee (ADC) Meeting, Geneva
- 6 Yip Kok Choong, APAY YMCA Funeral Service, Hong Kong
- 18 – 23 CWM Consultation and ECC 20th Anniversary of ISET, India
- 14 – 30 Movement Visit to the South Pacific Islands, Fiji and NZ

December

- 12 WSCF Staff Christmas Fellowship, Hong Kong
- 31 Solidarity Action for Palestine, Hong Kong

List of Officers, Staff, Member Movements, Networks and Partners

Standing Committee Members (2006 – 2008 August)

- Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad, India - Chairperson
- Biyaya Quizon, Philippines – Vice chairperson
- Nina Nayoan, Indonesia – Exco Member
- Michael Perkins, Aotearoa/New Zealand – Exco Member
- Phanou Khiev, Cambodia - Member-at-Large
- Diom Bang-joo, Korea – Member-at-Large

Regional Women's Committee Members (2006 – 2008 August)

- Phanou Khiev, Cambodia
- Christina de Rosa, Bangladesh
- Annabel Dulhunty, Australia
- Nariko Fukuda, Japan
- Nina Nayoan, Indonesia

Regional Staff/Team

- Necta Montes Rocas, Philippines – Regional Secretary
- Sunita Sumati Suna, India – Regional Women's Coordinator
- Paddy Noble, Aotearoa/New Zealand – Human Rights Coordinator
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WSCF AP Member Movement and Contact Persons in 2008

- Aotearoa SCM - Edward Franks, Coordinator (*until October*)
- Australia SCM – Eloise Wright, WSCF Liaison Officer
- Bangladesh SCM -Prince Suman Muzamdar, *General Secretary(until July)*
- CSCM, Cambodia SCM – Dith Sareth, Coordinator (*until October*)
- Hong Kong SCM – Lau Kim Ling, Executive Secretary
- India SCM – Samuel A. Jayakumar, General Secretary
- GMKI Indonesia SCM – Goklas Nababan, Chairperson (*until November*)
- Japan Student YMCA – Yuria Yokohama, Executive Secretary
- Korean Student Christian Federation, KSCF – Kim Oh Sung, General Secretary
- University Christian Work, Myanmar SCM – Saw Shwe Lin, General Secretary (*until October*)
- Philippine SCM – Leni Valeriano, Chairperson
- Sri Lanka SCM – Immanuel Gopala Kitnan, General Secretary
- Taiwan SCM – Rev. Tan Ho Tek, General Secretary
- Thailand SCM – Pitiphan Areeyat, Coordinor
- Movimento Estudante Cristao Timor Leste – Antonio da Silva, Chairperson

Partners

- General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, USA
- World Church Office, The United Methodist Church, United Kingdom
- Church of Sweden Mission, Sweden
- Common Global Ministries of Christian Church and United Church of Christ, USA
- Council for World Mission (CWM)
- General Board for Church and Society (GBCS), The United Methodist Church, USA
- Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit, The United Church of Canada
- Partners in Mission, The Anglican Church of Canada
- Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
- Christian World Service, National Council of Churches in Australia
- United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, Hong Kong
- International Committee of the Fellowship of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Thailand
- Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

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- Christian Conference of Asia
 - Fellowship of Least Coin

Networks and Groups in 2008

- Ecumenical Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Network, EASYNET
 - Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, Hong Kong
 - Christian Conference of Asia, CCA, Hong Kong
 - World Young Women Christian Association, WYWCA, Geneva
 - International Movement of Catholic Students Asia Pacific, IMCS, Philippines
 - International Young Christian Students Asia, IYCS, Philippines
 - Asian Student Association ,ASA, Hong Kong
 - Documentation for Action Groups in Asia, DAGA, Hong Kong
 - Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC),Hong Kong
 - Asian Women Resource Center (AWRC), Malaysia
- Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC), Taiwan