

International Young Christian Students Asia (IYCS Asia)



**Preparatory Document 1 for the
6th IYCS Chaplains and Animators Formation Exchange
(CAFÉ) Program
November 7-14, 2011
St. Louis Mary Juniorate, Sriracha, Chonburi, Thailand**

**“Called to be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20):
Students’ Education in the Hour of Interculturality and
Religious Pluralism”**

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I. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

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| Project Title | YCS Asian Chaplains and Animators Formation Exchange (CAFÉ) Program | |
| Project Theme | “Called to be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20): Students’ Education in the Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism” | |
| Workshop Date | November 7-14, 2011 | |
| Venue | St. Louis Mary Juniorate, Sriracha, Chonburi, Thailand | |
| Beneficiaries | Direct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 chaplains and animators from 15 national movements in Asia namely, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines; Korea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong SAR - The invitees from Japan, Myanmar, Mongolia, Laos, Cambodia, Macau, Japan, Australia and Fiji. - The host movement: YCS Bangladesh - Invitees from the Ecumenical Asia Pacific Youth & Students Net Work Asia Pacific (EASY NET) - Invitees from the Catholic Organizations for Youth in Asia (COYA) - Invitees from the Fraternity of Ecclesial Movements in Asia (FEMA) |
| | Indirect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The students, chaplains and animators from 15 national movements in Asia (national to local). - Group contacts in Asia - The movement in Pacific countries. - Youth ministry and young people in Asia. - Youth commissions in Asia - Members of the Ecumenical Asia Pacific Youth & Students Net Work Asia Pacific (EASY NET) - Members of the Catholic Organizations for Youth in Asia (COYA) - Members of the Fraternity of Ecclesial Movements in Asia (FEMA) |
| Host movement | Young Christian Students Thailand In-school and Out of School | |
| Methodology of the project | The project is based on the YCS methodology: See- Judge-Act (also known as Awareness – Reflection – Action). | |

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| <p>Purposes of the project</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ To respond to the needs of Asian students by training Asian Chaplains and animators skilled and empowered to effectively accompany and journey with the youth in this time of cultural and religious pluralism. ❖ To reexamine the realities and issues affecting young people today and empower the chaplains and animators in ministering to them. ❖ To revisit the realities and roles of Chaplains and Animators in Asia. ❖ To network with each other in the strengthening of the Christian formation and evangelization for the Asian youth. ❖ To train more chaplains and animators on the Spirituality and methodology of the YCS movement. ❖ To come up with a final statement and resource material that will serve as guide for chaplains and animators in ministering to the youth in Asia. |
| <p>Follow up</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Documentation and sharing stories and experiences among the chaplains and animators on their roles in accompanying the students. ❖ Follow up local CAFÉ for some identified countries which does not have an intensive formation and advocacy materials. ❖ Providing assistance to all national movements in providing the resource persons and materials for their local CAFÉ program. ❖ A publication of resource materials on the roles of chaplains and animators in Asia and the handbook of facilitation skills for students' leaders. |

II. INTRODUCTION OF THE PROJECT PROPONENT

The International Young Christian Students (IYCS) is a movement for, of, by and with the students, accompanied by chaplains and animators in various levels. It is a social movement for formation, transformation and liberation through empowerment and solidarity for a just world in the student milieu.

IYCS is a lay movement in the Catholic Church that is recognized by the Vatican as an International Catholic Organization and by the UN mechanisms. IYCS also has consultative status with UNESCO and is recognized as an International Non- Governmental Organization (NGO). Today, YCS is present in 85 countries in the world. Its International Secretariat is based in Paris, France.

In Asia, YCS has been present since the late 1940s, and recognized as a coordinating body of the Youth Desk of Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference. IYCS Asia also work closely with other Offices of FABC especially highlighting matters concerning youth, students, laity, justice and peace like the Catholic Organizations for Youth in Asia (COYA) and the Fraternity of Ecclesial Movements in Asia (FEMA). Networking with other students and youth movements (Ecumenical & secular) in the region, as well as like-minded NGOs is also an important dimension of the Asian Secretariat.

Nowadays, YCS is present in fifteen countries and few other extensional countries in Asia. The IYCS Asian Team, based in the IYCS Asian Secretariat in Manila, Philippines coordinates the life of YCS in Asia.

YCS members in Asia are secondary (high school) students in majority of the countries and college students in few countries. Usually, they gather as cell groups for regular meeting, based in schools, parishes or local communities. It is in these cells, that the “**Review of Life**” takes place. A student reviews his life’s situation in relation to their schools, families and to the whole community based on the SEE-JUDGE-ACT methodology promoted by Cardinal Joseph Cardijn, aiming to transform himself and the society he is living in.

Presently the IYCS Asian coordination focuses on these main social issues for three years (2009-2012):

- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Food Crisis
- ❖ Human rights education and Peace building

The IYCS Asian Secretariat is coordinated by the two lay persons and two part time chaplains. The team is given 3 year mandate to promote the work of YCS by the IYCS Asian Council. The present team members are:

Full time coordinators:

1. MS. REYNA CLEMENA DELOSO (YCS Philippines)
2. MR SHEHAN COORAY (YCS Sri Lanka)

Part time chaplain:

1. REV. FR. JAMES CHACKO, SDB (YCS India)
2. MDM. STEPHANIE NG (YCS Malaysia)

III. RATIONALE and BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical Background of CAFÉ

The Chaplains and Animators Formation Exchange or CAFÉ has been a venue for chaplains and animators for formation and exchange.

The need for formation and exchange for chaplains and animators has been expressed in the last 24 years. The idea of CAFÉ was first rooted in the annual consultation meeting between the Asian Youth International Catholic Organizations (AYICO) held in Hong Kong in September 1989. Three ICO’s namely International Young Christian Students (IYCS) Asia, International Young Christian Workers (IYCW) Asia-Pacific and International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) Asia expressed their concern and their need, and then decided to organize such program together. It was realized in 1991 when the first CAFÉ was held from 17-28 February in Bandung, Indonesia with the theme “Asian Chaplains and Animators in Lay Youth movements in the 1990’s”. This was a combined program between IYCS and IMCS. However, IYCW was unable to join due to other programs.

The second CAFÉ was organized again by IYCS and IMCS in 1997 from 23 October -2 November in Sriracha, Thailand with the theme “Surfing with: A Challenge to Accompaniment”

The third CAFÉ was organized in 2002 in Pampanga, Philippines from 28 May-4 June 2002 bearing the theme “Online with Students, in Faith as Animators” by IYCS solely Inspired by the theme, IYCS Asia launched its website to symbolically commit of being ‘online’ with the students. After CAFÉ 2002, chaplains and animators especially those who attended CAFÉ 2002 had a better understanding on the internationality of YCS, on their mission and their roles in the movement.

Since then, YCS Asia decided to organize this program for chaplains and animators every 3 years. Thus, the 4th IYCS CAFÉ was followed in Bangkok, Thailand from 1-8 October 2005 with the theme “Log in with Students, in Faith We Build Bridge” and the 5th CAFÉ was organized in Taytay, Philippines on 1-8 December 2008 on the theme, ‘Accompaniment: Journeying with Young People Today’.

We have felt the need to continue this formation and exchange program every 3 years for chaplains and animators in Asia as it is really beneficial not only for the IYCS movement but also for the Church in Asia where many chaplains and animators of YCS are also having the same commitments in their local Church especially in the Youth Ministry or Youth Service in their Parish such as Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Nepal. Moreover, in the past years, YCS both at local level and international level has been playing its active role in the apostolic service for the Young People. YCS Taiwan, Nepal, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand are typical examples when they reach out to work with both catholic and non catholic Youth in their countries.

3.2 The theme of the 6th CAFÉ 2011

The idea to come up with the theme “**Called to be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20): Students’ Education in the Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism**” brought by Asian Chaplains and Animators was from the international CAFÉ organized in Rome, Italy in 2010.

This theme emphasizes THE MISSION OF ACCOMPANYING for students to become authentic ambassadors of Christ; THAT the chaplains and animators need to journey with students in different aspects (movement, Church, personal life...). Instead of walking in front of the students to show them the way, to do everything for them, or walking behind the students, pushing them to do things according to their orders, it is important to make all the chaplains, animators and people who are playing the roles of advisers or companions of the students and young people understand clearly their mission of WALKING ALONGSIDE with the students as Jesus did to His Disciples more than 2000 years ago.

The theme also emphasizes the need for Chaplains and Animators to be updated with THE WORLD OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND STUDENTS IN THIS HOUR OF INTERCULTURALITY AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM, to understand the main issues faced by the Young today. To journey with them, Chaplains and Animators need to understand their struggles, their desire, their strength and weakness, listen to them and help them with an open heart and open mind being in a milieu of inter-culturality and religious pluralism.

3.3. Rationale of CAFÉ 2011

- **A mission of accompanying the Students and the Young in Asia.**

The statement of the Asian Youth Day IV held in Hong Kong in 2006 starts off by saying *“Asia is home to about 60% of the world’s young people. Youth are not only the future of the world but are the present treasurers of the Church”*. How important therefore is the mission of accompanying the Young in Asia!

The second BILA (Bishops’ Institute for Lay Apostolate) on Youth was organized by Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC) - Youth Desk from 10-14 November 2007 in Malaysia on the theme *“Reliving the Emmaus Story”* had also expressed the concern to all the Chaplains, animators and Youth ministers on the mission of accompanying the Youth in Asia as Jesus did.

We believe that Young people have power to be the agents of Change in Asia, they are not only the future but also the reality of Asia today and in their process of making positive changes in Asia, they need to be accompanied by chaplains and animators.

YCS as a lay apostolic movement has recognized the integral roles of chaplains and animators in journeying with the young students as the quote from Asian YCS Creed has mentioned: *“YCS as a movement of the students, by the students and for the students, is a space to exercise their mission. In this process they are accompanied by chaplains and animators”*

It is true that having a good companion, the Young will be really inspired and empowered to use their talents and strength to develop themselves and contribute to the growth of the Church, of the society. Therefore, the chaplains and animators need to always understand their desires, aspiration and their problems need to listen to them and empower them to go beyond themselves to be the apostles in the world today. This concern also has expressed for decades not only inside YCS movement but also inside the Youth ministries where IYCS also collaborate in different ways with them. This was also expressed during the Consultation meeting of FABC-Office of Education and Student Chaplaincy in October 2006 in Thailand. Therefore, we believe that empowering the concept of accompanying students and make the chaplains and animators understand their mission clearly is the most urgent need to address if we want the Students and the Young to be the agents of Change in Asia.

- **Realities: Lack of Chaplains and Animators for students in Asia.**

In Asia where Catholic is only a minority, the clergy and lay people who are playing a vital part in guiding the young people and students in different groups and movements of the Church is even smaller minority. Because of the lack of trained human resources in the apostolic work of the Church, many chaplains and animators including both clergy and lay are appointed with different commitments at the same time. The change of chaplains and animators also takes place very often in Asia, especially in South Asia. Many of them are appointed to other mission after serving in YCS movement for few years or even only few months. The new comers as chaplains and animators always face many challenges when they have to start leaning about the movement, the methodology of the movements as well as the reality of its students both at local and international level.

CAFÉ is the best space to train the new chaplains and animators at grass root level, help them to exchange their experiences, their challenges and find the way forward together.

It is also a great opportunity for them to listen to the students voice thru the panelists' sharing which are represented by the 3 students from 3 different sub regions (East Asia: Taiwan, South Asia: Sri Lanka and South East Asia: Singapore) to share their expectations toward their chaplains and animators, to share the experiences of the successful stories as well as challenges of being accompanied by the chaplains and animators in their countries. The successful story of the Chaplains, animators in their mission of journeying with the young also will be shared by special invitees.

- **The gap among Chaplains, Animators and Students in Asia**

Chaplains and Animators are often considered as formation givers rather than formation receivers. However, with the fast speed of development in economy and globalization nowadays, the gap among the generations are increasing in many countries, the chaplains and animators feel the need to have on going formation, especially on the social issues which affect the students' emotion and spirituality every day. With the impacts of globalization and modern technology nowadays, students and young people are becoming very sensitive with all the changes; they are often updated very fast according to the trend. On contrary, the older generations, especially religious feel themselves are out of date with the modern world of the Young. Many chaplains and animators admitted during the second BILA on Youth that it is very difficult for them to understand the Young and to identify their real concerns and desires to response according to that. It is true that, many chaplains and animators failed to recognize the real needs of the students, of the young people or failed to understand them, failed to be not only a Guider but a Friend, a Companion with them in their apostolic work as well as in their life.

We believe that CAFÉ 2011 will help the Asian Chaplains and Animators to be the bridge between students and the Church, between the students together and between the other chaplains and animators themselves, help them get ready to join the march with the Asian students and young people in the light of Love and Faith toward a better Asia in this hour of interculturality and religious pluralism with more hope, joy and a sense of fulfillment.

IV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- ❖ To form chaplains and animators on the basic skills in facilitating the programs, study sessions for YCS and young people.
- ❖ To bridge the gap among chaplains, animators and students, help them get updated and understand deeply the social issues which affect the Student's life and spirituality today.
- ❖ To create a platform where all the chaplains and animators from different countries, different culture in Asia and Pacific can exchange their experiences on Apostolic service for students and learn from each other.
- ❖ To deepen and broaden their understanding and practice on the YCS Review of Life methodology See-Judge-Act and the reality of IYCS movement today, especially on the movement structure approved during the World Council 2007 in Uganda and revisited in World Council 2011 in India.

- ❖ To empower the concept of students accompaniment not only in the movement but also in the students' life.
- ❖ To plan for the future action of Asian chaplains and animators to response to students' reality nowadays.

V. THE METHODOLOGICAL FLOW OF THE PROGRAM

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| SEE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Exposure to the students reality in different places of Thailand, focus on the issues affecting the students' life nowadays such as education on climate change, food crisis and human rights education. ◆ Panel discussion: Representatives of Asian students share their expectations for chaplains and animators. ◆ Testimonies and sharing experiences among chaplains and animators. ◆ Situational and national movement reports. ◆ Input sessions on the situation of the young people in Asia today. ◆ History of IYCS |
| JUDGE | <p>Analysis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The reality of IYCS movement and the Asian Church nowadays. ◆ The portrait of Asian Students in this hour of interculturality and religious pluralism ◆ Roles of Chaplains and animators in this hour of interculturality and religious pluralism <p>Input sessions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ YCS Spirituality. ◆ Faith reflection on prophetic roles and Emmaus Story (Luke: 24: 13-24) ◆ Conflict resolutions. |
| ACT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Training on facilitation and communication skills. ◆ Personal responses. ◆ National movement's plan of action on each of most popular issues faced by students nowadays. ◆ Sub regional planning. ◆ Prepare the potential candidates for the IYCS Asian Chaplaincy Team 2012-2015 ◆ Plan of actions for follow up programs/activities, for mutual exchange and solidarity among national movements. ◆ Formulation of "Skills for Asian Chaplains and Animators in this Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism" handbook. ◆ Drafting of the final statement on "Roles of Asian Chaplains and Animators in this Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism". |

VI. EVALUATION AND MONITORING PLAN

The IYCS Asian Coordination Team will work with all the national movements in Asia to monitor the follow up programs and activities to ensure the success of the following plans:

- ❖ Documentation and sharing stories and experiences among the chaplains and animators at the local and national level after CAFE program.

- ❖ Formation programs for some identified countries where chaplains and animators are new and lack of resource materials such as YCS Vietnam, YCS Pakistan, YCS Hong Kong, and YCS Indonesia.
- ❖ Monitor and help the national movements in providing the resource persons and advocacy materials for their local CAFÉ program.
- ❖ A net work of all chaplains, animators and former members of YCS in the whole Asia monitored by the IYCS Asian Chaplains.
- ❖ Exchange programs among the Chinese speaking national movements such as YCS Singapore, YCS China, YCS Hong Kong, YCS Taiwan and Chinese speaking groups in Malaysia.
- ❖ Publication of the final statement of CAFÉ 2011 on **Roles of Asian Chaplains and Animators in the 21st century** and the handbook on **“Skills for Asian Chaplains and Animators”**.

VII. FUND RAISING STRATEGIES

IYCS Asian coordination is making efforts together with the all the national movements, especially the host movement-YCS Thailand to raise the fund for this project. Some specific strategies were discussed as below:

- Organize local fundraising
- Develop partnership with other NGOs and Funding partners both at local and international level.

VIII. CONCLUSION

We believe that formation and training is always the important starting point which will help them to be aware, to be empowered to take the meaningful actions afterwards. The CAFÉ 2011 project is a continuous effort that IYCS Asia wants to bring to all the Chaplains and Animators of the YCS movement and the Church in Asia to deepen their understanding of the realities of the Asian students in the globalization context nowadays and to broaden their understanding of the internationality and solidarity among each others. Above all, they need to be trained to become the good facilitators, good guides and then they can be the trainers of other members in YCS movements and in the Church as well.