



Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia - 2018

'Towards Peace with Justice and Human Security'

**14-20 October 2018
Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

Concept Paper

Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA) is an initiative of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) to train prospective young peace activists and bring them to a common platform to help build communities where peace and harmony would prevail and be upheld.

YAPA-2018 will aim at identifying and training young peace activists as ambassadors of peace at national and regional levels. Living in an era of rapid changes amidst adverse realities, the Asia region requires a new generation of peace activists committed to work for peace and harmony. In this situation, YAPA-2018 shall explore the symbiotic relationship among peace, justice and human security. The Bible is replete with messages about the relationship of justice and peace. In the Old Testament, we are reminded to “turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:14). “Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17).

YAPA-2018 shall also explore the ways in which human security seeks to empower civil society in its quest for social development, economic security, human rights, food security, environmental security, community security, and political security.

Current Situation

In many parts of Asia, young people are vulnerable victims of the social and political marginalization. At times they are entangled in social, political, ethnic and religious conflicts as well as in civil wars. When challenges and conflicts constantly threaten peace and security, the young people in Asia need to be called to promote agents of change.

Acknowledging the fact that young people in every society and context have always been torchbearers of transformation and structural changes, it is imperative that young people are brought up in the spirit of peace, justice, freedom and mutual respect. At the same time, they are also potential stakeholders in conflict resolution and peace building. To build a peaceful and harmonious Asia, the youth can play positive and vital roles as ambassadors of peace in their communities and commit themselves to peace building, reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction of conflict affected societies. One significant role that youth can serve as a liaison in peacebuilding and conflict transformation is for them to “Be the Change” to amend attitudes towards people, traditions, religions, and beliefs. Young people in Asia are in a better position to discover the joy of living together and fully understand the importance of



peaceful co-existence. Asia's long nurtured and valued tradition of religious harmony and co-existence can be more easily practiced among the younger generation.

The theme of YAPA-2018: 'Towards Peace with Justice and Human Security'

The theme of YAPA-2018 will be 'Towards Peace with Justice and Human Security'. Various aspects of the main theme will be analysed and contextually interpreted during the training sessions.

Topics that will be discussed in detail include Principles and Frameworks of Peacebuilding; Inter-religious Work perspectives on Peace with Justice and Human Security; Peacebuilding: Where, When, and How; Understanding the difference between Conflict and Violence; Contextual Analysis of Situations; Conflict Resolution and Conflict Management at the Grassroots; Emergency Response to Conflict Situations and Initiatives for Peacebuilding; Peacemaking in Armed Conflict: Role of Military and Civil Society; Strengthening of Civil-Military Relations in Conflict affected areas; Prevention of Religious animosities and spreading flames of hatred; Reconciliation in Peacebuilding in religiously and ethnically intolerant communities; Meaning of Non-Violence, and application of Non-Violence as a Spirituality in Action.

Additionally, while in Thailand each participant shall prepare a volunteer community action plan that responds to the call for peace with justice and human security which they will implement at the latest three months after they return to their communities.

Objectives

The objectives of YAPA are the following:

1. To promote the presence of young people as actors of change in building peace with justice and human security
2. To train selected young people as peace ambassadors
3. To enhance the youth ambassadors' capacity through a systematic training to equip them to be active peace ambassadors in building peace and communal harmony.

Methodology

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

Selection process and criterion

1. Age between 22 and 30 (exceptions may be made on the basis of justification)
2. Be able to use English language independently in both written and oral communication;
3. Be motivated to learn and apply the YAPA values and approaches for peacebuilding upon return to home country;
4. Be committed to promote peace and work towards conflict transformation through initiatives and projects involving young people;
5. Selection will be based on competence, sub-regional and institutional representation, ability to contribute and participate in discussions at various segments of the YAPA, as well as the commitment to implement a volunteer project in peace building upon return to their home countries.
6. Interested candidates may send their applications before the deadline, 20 August 2018, to receive the application preferably with an endorsement by the head of the Church, ecumenical council or a regional ecumenical organization.



7. Board, lodging and local transportation of all selected candidates will be borne by CCA.
8. Limited travel bursaries will be made available to deserving candidates from countries and regions in West Asia, South Asia and South East Asia. Applicants from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Japan are advised to seek travel grants from their own member churches and councils.