

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

June 2015

14TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA

The 14th assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia was held from 21 to 26 May 2015 in THE Mercure Convention Centre, Ancol, Jakarta, Indonesia. First day was an extra ordinary general assembly to adopt the proposed new constitution for CCA. The rationale for a new constitution was to ensure

1. Good governance with required expertise
2. Utilize the depleting financial resources responsibly and cut costs of travel of large groups
3. To have a relevant and effective structure that will deliver the Ecumenical mission of CCA to promote unity among the churches in Asia.

The proposed constitution was passed by the extra ordinary assembly with 129 voting in favour out of 140. The five-yearly assembly started in the evening after the extra ordinary assembly under the theme of "Living together in the household of God."



Some 437 participants representing the member churches and partners of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) coming from 28 countries gathered for the assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia. The six-day assembly reviewed the work of CCA, determined program directions, amended its constitution and elected new members of the assembly committees. The assembly was also a venue for "Sarasehan", an Indonesian word for dialogue, in order to engage the participants in discussions on emerging Asian issues that are relevant to the witness of the church.

Pre assembly Women's' meeting on gender justice
Representing a notable number of delegates, women have gathered together at a Women's Forum in preparation for the 14th general assembly of CCA. With the theme "Partnership between Women and Men: Towards Gender Justice", the pre-assembly event was held on May 18 and 19 at Wisma Shalom, Lembang, West Java. The program also included panel discussions on

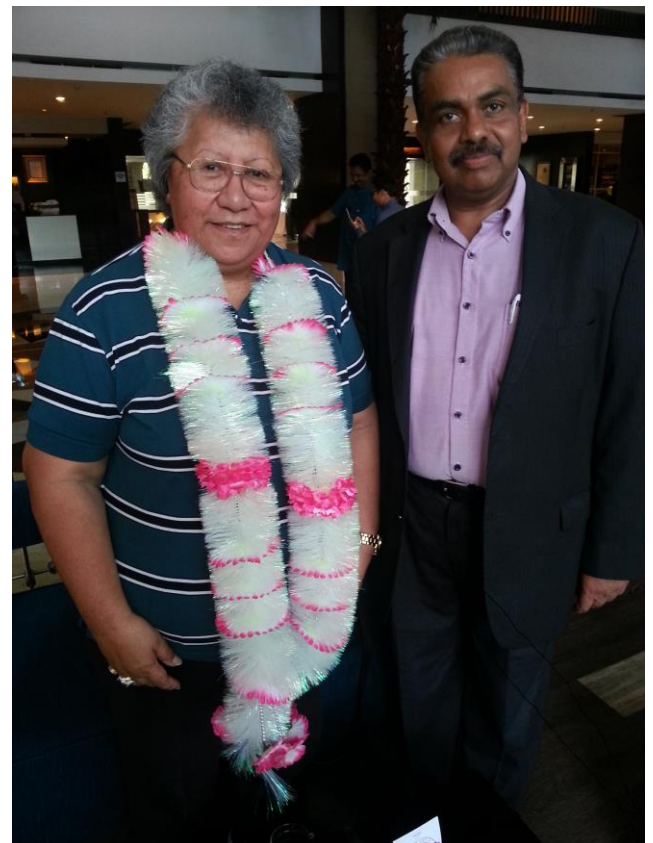
the current situation of women in Asia led by Dr. Kyung In Kim and Ms. Yuniyanti Chuzaifah that enabled participants to engage in discussions. Dr. Kim emphasized the struggles of women such as discrimination on salary systems for women workers, human trafficking, child marriage and the participation of women on public issues. She said that "we cannot close our eyes to the issues of women in the churches. There are still many forms of discrimination against women that exist."

Pre assembly youth gathering

The pre assembly youth gathering reflecting on the CCA assembly theme, "Living Together in the Household of God", called for young people to organize themselves and engage in united actions on what needs to be done for the household of God beyond just thinking about themselves.

REV. DIANA TANA ELECTED VICE MODERATOR – 2015 TO 2020

The assembly elected a 20 member executive committee to carry out the programmes proposed by the assembly. Bishop Willem TP Simarmata of Huria Kristen Batak Protestant was elected moderator and Rev. Diana Tana was elected vice moderator of Christian Conference of Asia for the next five years. They both will chair the meetings of the executive committee until the next general assembly in 2020.



Vice Moderator Rev. Diana Tana and the New General Secretary Dr. Matthews George

D T NILES MEMORIAL LECTURE

Named after late Dr. D. T. Niles, the first General Secretary of the then East Asia Christian Conference (EACC) and a leader of the global ecumenical movement. Niles Memorial Lecture is an integral part in CCA general assembly program in honour of the great leader.

The lecture was given by Dr. Isabel Apawo Phiri, Associate General Secretary for Public Witness and Diakonia of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Dr. Phiri is an African woman theologian, who shared her theological and biblical insights on the assembly theme "Living Together in the Household of God."



Dr. Phiri divided the assembly theme into two parts, focusing separately on "living together" and the "household of God" and then putting the whole theme in the context of pilgrimage for justice and peace.

"Being an ecumenical church requires of us to share together our spirituality and to act together. It is these two which make the presence of Jesus Christ visible among us and in our witness in the world credible. This witness is based on what we have heard God saying to us about the issues in the church or in the world. It is a space for analysis of the state of the church and the society today and the role of the church in the world" Dr. Phiri said.

Full version of Dr. Phiri's lecture is available at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/diakonia/phiris-speech-at-ccas-14th-general-assembly>

PUBLIC ISSUES FROM CCA ASSEMBLY 2015

The Assembly invites all to affirm that all are 'Living Together in the Household of God'. At the Assembly we listened to each other, shared our burdens and struggles, celebrated our joys and gave voice to our concerns. The delegates of the churches councils of Asia presented the concerns and issues to the Assembly. The Public Issues Committee outlined them and wanted these particular issues to be taken seriously by the CCA in its program planning and by the CCA members.

This is not an exhaustive or complete listing of the issues being faced in Asia today.

Under the category of suffering of people the following were highlighted: Human Trafficking, Forced Migration, The Marketing of Motherhood, Organ Trafficking, Violence Against Women, Youth, Children and Gender Minorities, Refugees and Displaced People and Nepal Earthquake Victims. Under the category of Peace and Security the following were noted for further action: Militarization North and Southeast Asia, Peace and Justice in Myanmar, The Rise of Religious Fundamentalism and Violence and Peace and Human Rights for West Papuans. The assembly also called on churches and national councils to work at climate justice. The resolution passed in support of action in West Papua stated "Supports the planned dialogue between the Indonesian authorities and West Papua so that Papuans can live with justice, peace, dignity and security."

Towards a Common Vision A Six-day Winter School on Ecumenism In the 21st Century - 13 to 17 July 2015

The Biennial winter school on ecumenism will be held from Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July 2015 followed by an open Symposium on Saturday 18 July 2015 at St. John's College, Meadowbank Auckland.

Tutors from Centre for Ecumenical Studies of Charles Sturt University Canberra include Rev. Prof. Robert Gribben (Uniting Church), Rt. Rev. Prof. Steven Pickard (Anglican Diocese of Canberra - Goulburn) and Rev. Dr. Ray Williamson. In addition there will be tutors within New Zealand to bring about the aspects of ecumenism within New Zealand.

Those who wish to attend please register before 30 June 2015 by getting a brochure by email from princd@methodist.nz

FEES (INCLUDES GST, LUNCH, MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEA)

Undergraduate students	\$ 300
Audits	\$ 175*
Symposium (Saturday only)	\$ 35*

**No assignments required*

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