

CLC Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly – Taiwan, January 2015
“Youth and formation for mission in our region today”
Final Assembly document and recommendations

We, the delegates of the CLC Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly, are pleased to bring you news, reflections and final recommendations from our Assembly.

1. Introduction – background

The CLC Asia-Pacific Assembly is held once every five or so years, at some convenient time between CLC World Assemblies. At the last CLC World Assembly in 2013 in Beirut, CLC (Taiwan) generously offered to host the next CLC Asia-Pacific Assembly. Following consultation, the theme selected was “Youth and Formation for mission in our Region today” and the related scriptural theme was “Asian Youth! – *Arise, shine* (Isa 60:1)”. So this Asia-Pacific Assembly was held in Taipei and attended by approximately 38 delegates from various Asia-Pacific CLC national and territory communities including some observer communities.

2. The Asia-Pacific Region today – and the Assembly “youth-related” theme.

The Asia-Pacific region is rapidly growing in global significance. It has over 1bn persons under the age of 25 and is an area of increasing interest to the Church. We note the recent successful visits of the Pope to South Korea, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Why “youth”? Today, globally, and no less in the Asia-Pacific Region, there seems to be a strong competition for the hearts and minds of people, especially young people. Accepting this challenge, we too must bring our Faith and our CLC Charism to young people as best we can, offering them the opportunity to know Jesus, and to experience something of Ignatian spirituality and the CLC way of life. This Assembly addressed how CLC might best do this.

Further reasons why the subject of “youth” seemed appropriate are: “youth” was a “frontier” discerned at the last CLC World Assembly; it is a part of our call to offer CLC to young people; CLC demographics reveal a significant under-representation of youth in its membership. Also, CLC looks forward to the special qualities young people bring to our community such as energy, fresh insights, and hope.

3. Process of the Assembly

The Assembly began on the opening night with formal welcomes, then brief reviews of our CLC journey since Assemblies in Hong Kong and Lebanon, concluding with a brief discussion of our Assembly theme and program. The next day, delegates enjoyed the community–building inputs from the various national communities in the A-P Region followed by a shared reflection on the Asia Youth Day (South Korea, 2014) and its significance for CLC. The Assembly program then shifted directly to input and discussion from Assembly delegates on “engaging with youth” and “formation for youth” - discussing and recording its

views on what might be taken into account at regional and national levels in relation to CLC and young people.

4. Outcomes of the Assembly

This Assembly urges all National Communities and the CLC Asia-Pacific Regional Animating Team to consider the following in their future plans.

A. Goals of our engagement with youth

- 1) To facilitate, for young people, an encounter with God
- 2) To offer a service to youth that is genuine
- 3) To offer CLC to youth

B. Our way of proceeding

- 1) Be adventurous: seeking youth at the frontiers; on the margins; in new environments
- 2) Accompany them, practicing companionship in life - yet allowing autonomy
- 3) Assist with life discernments as opportunities present themselves
- 4) Use wisdom language (including music)
- 5) Appreciate something of the psychology of youth – according to age group
- 6) Encourage self-discovery and self-awareness in young people
- 7) Encourage depth in relationships; counter the growing trend of global superficiality
- 8) Note: Youth attracts youth.

C. Important attitudes in serving young people

- 1) Respect for young people; being non-judgmental; no labels; have humility in relating to young people
- 2) Adopt a listening disposition
- 3) Allow for periods of both action and silence as seems appropriate
- 4) Be “youthful” oneself, and be joyful
- 5) Have purity of intention in one’s focus on youth - being credible, authentic
- 6) Make the extra effort to understand young people and their contexts.

D. General Recommendations for CLC National Communities in the Asia-Pacific Region

- 1) **Youth pilgrimages and retreats:** provide opportunities for young people to journey and gather together, sharing spiritual and/or immersion experiences, resources and fruits.
- 2) **Social media:** encourage web-based communication possibilities for young people and sense of Asia-Pacific wide CLC regional identity.
- 3) **Web-based materials availability:** build a data base in relation to formation – especially for youth, and for guides responsible for youth groups.
- 4) **Bi-lateral programs:** Promote visits, exchanges for young people between Asia-Pacific CLC national communities.
- 5) **Inter-organizational collaboration:** seek collaboration with other bodies on youth programs and engagement in social issues.

5. CLC Asia-Pacific Regional Animating Team

Elections were intended for four positions of an Asia-Pacific Animating Team, including a Team Coordinator. Five nominations were received. It was a spontaneous and unanimous acclamation of the Assembly that all five nominees be accepted onto a five-person Team and that the matter of coordination be left to them without the need to elect a person to such a role. The Asia-Pacific Animating Team members are: Daphne Ho (Hong Kong); Agnes Shin (South Korea); Theresa Wang (Taiwan); Caroline Chan (Philippines), and Michael Walker (Australia). Their term of office is until the next A-P Assembly. Also working closely with this Team will be the World ExCo link person (at present, Chris Hogan).

Matters that this Assembly recommends that the Animating Team specifically address, as its mandate, include:

- a) **7th Asian Youth Day (2017):** Facilitate, as a common mission, and in conjunction with CLC national communities, participation by young people in the forthcoming Asia Youth Day (AYD-2017) in Indonesia. Such participation may involve a pilgrimage, retreats, meetings, and immersion experiences as seems appropriate.
- b) **Regional community-building and communication** - Encourage community-building and communication among CLC Asia-Pacific national communities - especially in relation to youth. Attention will also be given to:
 1. **Social media:** Explore suitable social media as tools for enhancing different communication needs (or levels of communication).
 2. **Asia-Pacific connections:** Look at the possibility of a shared web-based calendar of major CLC Asia-Pacific activities and virtual meetings among Animating Team and with National Community A-P Link persons to help foster CLC regional interests.
- c) **Website-based sharing of materials:** As time and resources permit, develop a platform to compile/share materials especially for those “cut across” core materials of “youth formation” and “formation for guides of youth related groups”. As analysis/survey of existing materials continues, develop a suitable framework.

6. Concluding statement

The delegates of this Assembly are deeply grateful for the Spirit-filled way this Assembly has progressed. We encourage CLC National Communities in the Asia-Pacific Region to support, wherever possible, implementation of the spirit and practice of the Assembly recommendations. Finally, we once again express our appreciation for the dedicated effort and generosity of CLC (Taiwan), and their many helpers, in making this whole event and its ongoing processes possible and so successful.

We thank the Good Lord for all this and ask that the Holy Spirit continues to sustain and guide us all in our mission in the CLC Asia-Pacific Region.