

# Christian Conference of Asia

• Payap University, Muang, Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand  
Tel: +66-(0)53-243906, 243907 Fax: +66-(0)53-247303

February 24, 2017

To: Heads of CCA Member Churches and Councils

Dear Ecumenical Colleagues,

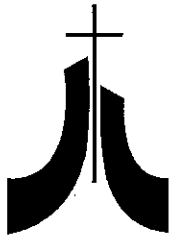
Greetings from Christian Conference of Asia.

We are pleased to invite applications from young people between the ages of 20-30 to attend a training program on “Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA)”, which will be held from May 28 (arrival) to June 3 (departure), 2017 at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The proposed program of YAPA aims to identify and train a new generation of young peace activists for building peace. In order to achieve this goal, a team of 200 young people across Asia will be trained at national and regional levels in the coming years and commissioned by CCA as Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia, and they will be companions and advocates for peace. The process started from 2016 onwards. In a few years’ time, CCA will organize the “Asia Youth Assembly on Peace in Asia (AYAPA)”, a major youth event that will focus on youth for building peace in Asia. The YAPA participants are also expected to contribute in the facilitation of AYAPA.

The training program builds on the principles of non-formal education, focusing on intercultural and interfaith learning as a base for addressing topics such as conflict transformation and peace-building. It emphasises the links between intercultural and interfaith dialogue, human rights, and conflict transformation as key elements in long-term sustainable peace processes, while exploring and developing participants' knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. Participants will have the chance for transforming learning into practice by initiating various activities in their community to support youth participation and contribution to peace-building processes through the program.

The main **objectives** of this training program are:

- To promote the presence and role of young people as positive actors of change in peace-building processes;
- To strengthen the role of young people in identifying and speaking up against human rights violations, including discrimination, hate speech and those human rights violations affecting especially young people and children;
- To support the field presence and activity of young people in Asia by fostering cooperation with key stakeholders, partners, non-governmental organisations working in the field of peace-building.
- To develop the impact and the expertise of Asia’s youth sector in conflict affected areas through non-formal education activities with young people;
- To develop the competencies of youth peace ambassadors in promotion and protection of human dignity, conflict transformation, peace-building, intercultural and interfaith dialogue, as well as other specific competencies according to the participants needs, related to their role as future ambassadors;



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- To enhance the youth ambassadors' capacity to take action at a local level in environments affected by previous or ongoing conflicts;
- To create and support an Asian network of youth peace ambassadors to secure the sustainability and long-term impact of the project.

## CCA will be responsible for covering the following expenses

- Related to the board and lodging of all participants during this meeting;
- A limited number of travel bursaries will be provided upon request for participants from the Global South. Those who are intending to apply travel subsidies should indicate the estimated amount of the cheapest and most direct international ticket costs) and amount of your contributions to the travel cost;
- In the spirit of ecumenical sharing, we will appreciate the kind consideration of councils and churches in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan to support the travel expenses of your representatives.

## Applications

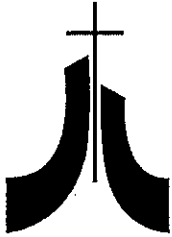
The concept paper and the **application form** are available online at <http://cca.org.hk/home/news-and-events/cca-invites-applications-for-young-ambassadors-of-peace-in-asia-training-2017/>. Please send filled out application forms to CCA along with the following documents:

- A short **country-report** essay, describing (a) one's educational, volunteer, professional experience and ecumenical/church/interfaith involvement, (b) problems in one's country and community, (c) what efforts are needed and are being made to address the problems, and (d) what volunteer community project, as required, the selected participant will implement upon returning home. See attached template;
- **Letter of recommendation** from member church/ecumenical organisation (or other institutions for Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and other Christians);
- **Consent form** and **all the requirements** as indicated in the consent form; and,
- **Join the closed group page** at the following link where further discussions and announcements will be made:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/252154511909020/members/>

## Criteria for Applicants:

- Ability to use English language independently in both written and oral communication;
- Required to implement a volunteer community project for peace-building upon returning to home country;



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The **deadline** for receiving application is **April 10, 2017**. Selection will be based on competence, confessional and gender balances, sub-regional and institutional representation, and ability to contribute and participate in enriching the content of YAPA.

With all good wishes and prayers,  
Coordinators of YAPA 2017  
Christian Conference of Asia

Ms. Maureen Mata'u

Attachments: Consent Form and Template for a Short Country Report

Yours along the journey,

Mathews George Chunakara  
General Secretary, CCA