

CTC BULLETIN

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Editorial

This edition of *CTC Bulletin* features a number of papers that were shared in various programs of the Christian Conference of Asia. A few came out of activities of theological education institutions in Asia and of CCA's ecumenical partner, the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) which is a Catholic body in Asia. We are truly happy to include these papers in the *CTC Bulletin* for it signifies our role as an ecumenical vehicle of Asian theologizing – not only from our own constituency but also, whenever possible, from our ecumenical partners.

In October 2006, the CCA held a Roundtable Meeting with ecumenical partners from Europe and America. It was in that meeting that James Haire from Australia provided an input on "Asian Realities and the Ecumenical Response." That input started off a discussion on various responses to recurring and emerging issues in Asia. A number of Asian realities are in fact reflected in the other papers contained in this *CTC Bulletin* edition – e.g. globalization, migration, women's issues (gender justice issues), and rethinking of mission.

"Globalization, Justice and Theological Education" was a presentation made by Jesudason Baskar Jeyaraj in India and which he has kindly offered for wider circulation. Globalization is indeed a phenomenon that theological institutions need to tackle critically – in order for them to be conscious of how they may themselves be co-opted by globalization or how they may be a tool instead to critique and transform globalization's negative impact in Asia.

Sungjae Kim of Japan shared a comprehensive biblical-theological reflection on "God of Migrants and Migrants with God towards Peacemaking" in a consultation on migrant workers conducted by CCA-Faith, Mission and Unity (CCA-FMU) program area sometime ago in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. With migration, especially forced migration, being one of the manifestations of globalization today, revisiting biblical teachings on God's journeying with migrants is a very important task of theologizing today.

In the past months, the CCA-Faith, Mission and Unity program area held a series of consultations on Re-routing Mission and Ecumenism in Asia. These consultations have been times of critical assessment of how mission in Asia had been carried out, often attached to colonialism and therefore coopted by the Empire. Such critical assessment has therefore led to a clamor for a re-routing of mission – i.e. from the clutches of empire. It is with all this that A. Wati Longchar of India shares his theological reflection after actively participating in the consultations.

Three papers from the CCA-TCL (Theological College of Lanka) Ecumenical Lecture Series that CCA-FMU supported and co-organized in July 2006 in Kandy, Sri Lanka are also

featured in this edition. The occasion of the celebration was the 35th anniversary of women in theological education in Sri Lanka and the 25th anniversary of the first theologically trained woman's ordination. Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro from the Philippines reflected on "Sri Lankan Ordained Women's Experience and Asian Feminist Theologizing." Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar from India spoke on "Marking, Re-making and Re-marking of History." Suchitra Behera, an Indian residing and teaching in Bangladesh, spoke on "Theological Education for Women in Bangladesh." The Ecumenical Lecture Series continues to be an avenue for CCA to be involved in theological education institutions in Asia – by bringing ecumenical lecturers from other parts of Asia and also bringing ecumenical concerns to theological education institutions in Asia. This has proven to be a good avenue for an exchange of scholars cum lecturers while at the same time reaching out to many students and faculty in various theological institutions.

Finally, three short papers are offered here from the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) through James H. Kroeger, a Catholic priest who is based in the Philippines. The FABC held its first Asian Mission Congress in Chiang Mai, Thailand in October 2006 and having participated in that congress, Fr. Kroeger shares his reflections along with the message of and recommendations from the congress. The congress was a big event for FABC to which the Christian Conference of Asia was invited. This practice of reciprocal invitation to each other's programs is part of the ongoing partnership and cooperation between the two bodies in Asia. In addition, both CCA and FABC jointly hold, organize and implement some programs and activities, and hold joint staff meetings and retreats of their program staff. This joint relationship goes back to 1993 and is a reflection of the two bodies' commitment to ecumenism.

The recurring and emerging realities in Asia, which include globalization, migration, women's issues (gender justice) among many others, provide constant challenges for the church in Asia to rethink and revisit its mission understanding and practices. Indeed, the missionary life and work that Jesus the Christ demonstrated and lived out continues to call upon his followers today to be with the people in their pain and suffering and to offer them hope in the possibility and reality of fullness of life right here and now.

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Editor