

Asia Pacific Justice Peace Network

To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)



Asia Pacific Justice and Peace Workshop Madonna Heights, Kuala Lumpur: 12 -15 June 2010

*Between 12th and 15th June 2010, 25 Good Shepherd Justice and Peace contact persons and representatives met at Madonna Heights, Kuala Lumpur for a four day workshop. Present also were Srs Maria Rose, Province leader of India/Nepal, the Justice and Peace link person with the Asia Pacific Circle, Sr. Joan Lopez, Province leader of Singapore/Malaysia, the host country, Sr. Winifred, the Congregation's NGO representative at the UN and Sr. Sutisa Utalun, the NGO designate for the Region. Sr. Stella from Saipan was also invited to be a participant. The theme of the workshop was: **Creating New Pathways for Justice in the Asia Pacific Region.***

There were three objectives:

- 1. To establish a clear and strong sense of identity as the Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Justice and Peace Network.*
- 2. To develop an overview of the issues of current concern in the different countries in the region and to share something of the rich diversity of the cultures in Asia Pacific.*
- 3. To provide a venue for discussion of current issues around the four justice priorities of the region: Migration, Anti-trafficking, Economic Justice and Care for the Earth. To articulate a clear statement of principles and common actions as the Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Justice and Peace Network.*



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During the four days of the workshop, participants listened and learned:

- ✚ From the reports from each of the countries in the Region.*
- ✚ From Rosario Bella Guzman from the IBON Foundation as she gave a comprehensive overview of the situation in the Asia Pacific Region from the perspective of the Regions four priority issues;*
- ✚ From Judith Koh who spoke on “Power, Voice and Rights: A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific”;*
- ✚ From Sr Winifred Doherty who gave a very clear and engaging insight into how our special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN actually works for us.*

The challenge for participants was to bring their experience and all they were hearing in the workshop days to consideration of action on the four regional priorities of human trafficking, migration, economic justice/poverty and ecological justice. In workshop groups they studied causes and effects and proposed action plans which were finally narrowed down to four concrete plans for each group:

- ✚ Human Trafficking: A comprehensive program of awareness raising actions targeted at the community as a whole.*
- ✚ Migrants: A program of awareness raising and advocacy targeted at employers and employer groups.*
- ✚ Poverty/Economic Justice: A strategy aimed at ensuring fair and just employment practices in all Good Shepherd communities, organizations and projects in our region, as part of a process of ensuring good practice in our own facilities before tackling unjust practices in the wider community.*
- ✚ Ecological Justice: Awareness raising activities targeted at Good Shepherd communities, agencies and projects and also at the wider community.*

A member of the Core Team will work with each issue group to assist in keeping up the momentum to action.

In the four days there was time also for relaxation, fun and enjoyment of one another’s cultures in the Solidarity Night, the Malay Cultural Show and other outings that were planned for the participants by Gloria Bon, the justice contact person in Malaysia. A debt of gratitude is owed to the Singapore/Malaysia Province and the Madonna Heights community for hosting the workshop and to the Good Shepherd partners who generously gave their time and work to make things run smoothly, effectively and enjoyably.

Participants left Madonna Heights with a renewed sense of commitment and energy for their mission as justice and peace contact persons.

Asia Pacific Core Team:

(Mrs Gloria Bon and Sisters Maureen Catabian, Madonna Wimaladasa, Anne Manning and Sutisa Utalun)



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