



Christian Conference of Asia



Asian Ecumenical Institute -2024

Creation Care and Justice: Our Faith Commitment and Collective Witness

21 July - 17 August 2024/ CCA Headquarters, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The AEI, a month-long ecumenical formation training course organized annually by the CCA, focuses on ecumenical formation and leadership development of prospective Asian ecumenical and church leaders. It fosters a broader ecumenism rooted in Christian faith, tradition, and heritage, encouraging unity and understanding across boundaries of denomination, culture, society, economy, and politics. Through an intercultural and interdenominational setting, participants live, worship, and learn together, exploring contextual ecumenical responses to Asia's emerging realities.

The AEI prioritises the formation of participants' biblical and theological foundations, sharpening their insights on our commitment for God's creation care. By the end of the programme, participants are empowered with the skills and vision that will enable them to actively contribute to the ecumenical movement, and to commit more for creation care and justice.

The theme of the AEI-2024 has been developed within the conceptual framework of wider ecumenism with a specific thematic focus on '***Creation Care and Justice: Our Faith Commitment and Collective Witness***'. This year the AEI will be held in collaboration with the programme for Ecumenical Formation of World Council of Churches(WCC) in Chiangmai, Thailand.

A team of prominent theologians and ecumenists with professional expertise at the international level will be the main resource persons.

Admissions will be limited to twenty participants, and selections will be based on competence, gender, and confessional balances, sub-regional representation, as well as the applicant's ability to effectively communicate in English. The CCA member churches and councils are encouraged to recommend interested candidates to apply for the AEI-2024.

Theme: '*Creation Care and Justice: Our Faith Commitment and Collective Witness*'

Being created in the image of God, we are called to be better stewards in the household of God to live in harmony with one another. God wants the entire creation to live in harmony, even in the midst of our brokenness. God transforms and sustains the whole creation to be cared and restored, and live in harmony. It is in this context that the AEI-2024 will focus on the theme '*Creation Care and Justice: Our Faith Commitment and Collective Witness*'.

The theme for AEI-2024, '*Creation Care and Justice: Our Faith Commitment and Collective Witness*' emphasises the vital role of young people in actively engaging in creation care and affirming their commitment and strengthened bond of 'witness' in God's transformative work in creation. As we are

living the era when our 'creation care' is urgently needed and climate change is already having devastating effects on Asia, it is urgently needed to equip the young people to play their pivotal role and leadership of the environmental movement toward creation care and justice. Highlighting the interconnectedness between faith and the ecological crisis, the theme urges young Asian ecumenists to practice holistic ministry and work for creation care. Through the AEI–2024, the participants will explore theological foundations, drawing wisdom from diverse perspectives, and deepening their understanding of the interplay between spirituality, justice, and environmental well-being.

The theme also emphasises collaboration and collective action, encouraging participants to form partnerships and networks beyond the boundaries of nationality, denomination, and culture. By fostering a community of young Asian ecumenists dedicated to care for God's creation, the AEI cultivates an environment of mutual learning and collaboration.

The AEI will aim at:

- training a new group of young ecumenical leaders in Asia, from among men and women, laity, youth, clergy and theological students who are committed to the ecumenism;
- equipping prospective church and ecumenical leaders with theological, socio-political and practical skills and wider ecumenical vision, tools of analysis of Asian reality and development of leadership skills;
- enhancing their capacity to respond effectively to contemporary ecumenical challenges; and
- assisting participants to understand Asian and international ecumenical trends.

Who can apply?

- Men and women, pastors, theological students, church workers, and/or lay leaders belonging to CCA member churches, councils and other ecumenical networks;
- Persons who are below 35 years;
- Persons who are interested in widening their ecumenical perspectives and sharing their learnings when they return to their respective countries;

Applications

Please download the application form:

Please send applications to CCA along with the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae describing the applicant's ecumenical and church involvement
- Letter of recommendation from member church/ecumenical organization

Scholarship / Travel bursaries

The total cost for one student's participation at AEI–2024 for registration, board and lodging, and tuition fee will be 3000 USD and additional travel expenses. CCA will offer scholarships for deserving applicants to cover board and lodging expenses of selected participants. Limited travel grants also will be made available for candidates intending to join the course from South and South East Asian countries. Churches from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia are encouraged to sponsor participants from their respective churches and pay travel costs. Completed applications for the AEI–2024 should be submitted no later than 30 May 2024 through email: cca.aei@cca.org.hk