

# ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK 2013

*Mt. Fuji and the larch trees, **koyo** – the time when the leaves change colour – a time of change for all of us, "beauty and humility in a time of change and rediscovered energies for the future".*



**OCTOBER 2013**

**JESUIT CONFERENCE OF ASIA PACIFIC (JCAP)**

This report presents brief overview of Asia Pacific in terms of key environmental concerns, advocacies, events, policies and discoveries. Different levels of initiatives and responses of Jesuit people to *Reconciling with Creation* are also highlighted.

You may find that you want to add or advise us as to how we can continue to get this to be more interactive in the future and provide more support. Then you are most welcome.

# FOREWORD

**For the past three years, the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP) has taken up Ecology and Migration as priority themes for engagement.**

**Fr. Mark Raper**, JCAP President has set the tone for Jesuit people in the region to take up the challenge to seriously include ecology and migration as part of their institutional theme and programme of action.

Many have responded positively to **Reconciliation with Creation** with Jesuit provinces and institutions struggling to develop and implement their own ecological agenda. Some of the provinces have translated the document “Healing a Broken World” to better inform Jesuits, scholastics, staff, faculty, and students of the Jesuit mission “care of the environment”. Others are establishing waste management and recycling systems, while most schools are reviewing curriculum for integration of ecology in geology, geography, ethics, business and economics subjects.

There are many ecological initiatives happening in our Conference yet the challenge remains – we need to bring together all those local experiences and learnings so others may learn. It is also important that we are able to collaborate with other work, as **Fr. General Adolfo Nicolas** would often encouraged us as we seek reconciliation with creation.

The publication of “Reconciling with Creation, Source Book” in May 2013 is drawn out of a global interest from various Jesuit people and groups engaging with environmental concerns and actions. Many are seeking for a source book that would guide them as they commit to Jesuit mission and ecology. Many find it helpful guide in reflecting on and engaging in Reconciliation with Creation.  
<http://ecojesuit.com/reconciling-with-creation-source-book/5170/>

Particularly, this report presents the update on the environment and how Jesuit people in the region responded to the call to Jesuit mission and ecology on “Reconciliation with Creation”. Most of the activities reported are drawn from the different visits made by the Ecology Coordinator to provinces, institutes and schools.

In this light, we encourage all “Fr. Greens and Mr/Mrs. Greens” and sustainability officers or healing earth coordinators to continue to engage with us and support as to how we may develop strategy for engaging and keeping those environmental topics and concerns interactive in our region. It is also a challenge for all us to keep a *spiritual conversation* going that broaden our capacity to begin talking about basic concerns in a language that knows how to deal with failure and human limitations.

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# Environment Outlook 2013

## JESUIT CONFERENCE OF ASIA PACIFIC (JCAP)

### INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that the Conference has commissioned the Social Ministries to animate, in collaboration with other ministries, environmental awareness and build collaborative networks concerning Jesuit mission and ecology. In support to the Social Ministries Delegate in Asia Pacific, a Coordinator for Ecology has been appointed to animate programs and initiatives relating to the environment across the Conference and with the global agenda.<sup>1</sup>

The themes and objectives set by the Ecology group has been broad. Yet, the group recognised that there is no ideal outcome as the concerns and responses are diverse. Most of the partners on Reconciliation with Creation are not formally appointed but rather they share their time and knowledge in moving the ecology strategy. There is also a fair amount of environmental awareness in of our most schools.

However there is no wider civil or greater social awareness that sustains the experience in terms of the ups and downs and the need for what could be called “a deepening and simplicity in living”. This reality is fine. Jesuits are not leaders in ecological action as being taken up socially.

### A. ASIA PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK 2013

#### 1. Climate Change and Human Activities

The strongest global agenda in relation to the environment perhaps formed by the Intergovernmental Panel on **Climate Change** (IPCC) and further level by the large international conservation groups and development agencies. In the IPCC 5th Assessment Report on Climate Change (2013), scientific community is finding new trends of evidence for climate change, where they are now considering in the projections the meltdown occurrence at the Greenland and Antarctica regions. Observations of global mean surface air temperatures over land and oceans show a continuing increase in the heat content and suggest a small positive energy imbalance that serves to increase the global heat of the earth system. Though there are many who genuinely act about climate change, many are also observing that there are unusual changes in the global climate that cannot be explained other than human activities. Climate change, whether driven by natural or human, can lead to changes in the likelihood of the occurrence or strength of extreme weather and climate events or both.<sup>1</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

The Flights for Forests (F3) program has come to a new light. A project implementation document is developed and shared (at the start) to those who have expressed their interest to support and

<sup>1</sup> Globally, there is no Conference that has a full program for a significant engagement. It has taken up the last three years, with a budget to meet six to eight people to hammer out a global agenda with at least two things:

- a) An update of papers, editorials and reflections from committed contributors/writers for Ecojesuit
- b) Forming an agenda around water, where no full time person appointed to work on the agenda and most of the collaboration, which now clearly includes four Conferences.



Intergovernmental Panel on  
Climate Change Fifth  
Assessment Report 2013  
<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/#.UnCtJxyPgao>

contribute to the program. Initially, Jesuit Social Services (Australia) and Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) are setting up a charging system within their existing projects/programs to facilitate F3 contribution. Aside from this, the Ecology team is doing an active follow up with those Provinces who have initially expressed their interest of support: Australia, Indonesia and Micronesia, and strategize on how we may assist in the set up of F3 system within the province. Aside from this, there are few schools in Australia and individuals in Canada who have also expressed their interest to support, which the team is initiating communications. A contribution record and update on the activity supported by F3 fund shall be reported first quarter of 2014.

Recently Fr. Jose Ignacio Garcia of JESC wrote an editorial for Ecojesuit on IPCC report. To read full article:  
<http://ecojesuit.com/climate-change-2013-the-physical-science-basis-and-the-human-response-needed/5805/>

- **Humanity is using resources faster than the Earth can replace them.** The Global Footprint Network estimates that it would currently take one and a half Earths to renew the resources humanity consumes as of 2013.<sup>ii</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Most of our people are aware of this and the effort is not so much to judge but to seek and support generally a simpler lifestyle.

- **Water security** in Asia Pacific is under threat from many sources: population growth, urbanization, increasing water pollution, the over-abstraction of groundwater, water-related disasters, and climate change. Current national to global planning and management have proven insufficient to address the challenges of meeting society's diverse needs for water. An intersectoral process that requires leaders to break through political limits, to span national boundaries, and to create a positive nexus among water, food, and energy security plays a significant role in boosting water security.<sup>iii</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Water has been a particular focus of GIAN/JCAP-Ecology for action. Jesuit people are encouraged to work with others on water clean up, materials development for school activities and case studies in their area, to support the efforts of students and youth involvement in responsible water use, and to share with the Conference any initiatives or materials developed on water cooperation. <http://sjapc.net/content/water-all>

- By 2035, Asia will consume 56% of the world's total **energy**, up from 34% in 2010, and become the world's largest energy consumer. If the region does not change consumption patterns, Asia will double its oil consumption, triple its natural gas use, and need 81% more coal by 2035.<sup>iv</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

We have little idea how to address this in the region. Our institutions are increasingly looking at solar and other alternative energy sources but have not yet tackled transportation options.

- **Agriculture's** share of total output has declined significantly in the region, but agriculture is still the sector with the lowest productivity. The share of employment in agriculture has also fallen, but the sector still engages over 700 million workers—42.82% of Asia's total employment.<sup>v</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

These are usually amongst the poorest and are most vulnerable to disaster in terms of life and livelihood.

- The region has increased **protected areas**, which are dedicated to safeguarding and maintaining biological diversity and natural or cultural resources, but no notable change has been made in better maintaining natural forest cover while plantations such as oil palm and production soft woods expand. Sustained economic growth has driven increases in emissions of carbon dioxide.<sup>vi</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

In many cultures in Asia Pacific, protected areas may be defined as their sacred places that is part of their spiritual and community life. These may not always be simply natural sites but have a natural context where culture has found and built its spiritual expression.

- Asia Pacific is home to some of the world's largest **refugee** situations, which now represents a predominantly **urban displacement** picture. The region continues to be marked by irregular migratory movements, with refugees in need of protection and livelihood opportunities.<sup>vii</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Jesuit Refugee Service in Asia Pacific has long recognized that serving urban refugee population is a major challenge. In March 2012, JRS identified six priority areas for interventions in urban settings: (i) access to services, (ii) psychosocial and mental health, (iii) education, (iv) material and basic needs, (v) legal issues, (vi) protection and rights. <http://www.jrsap.org/>

- Across Asia Pacific, **indigenous peoples** are recognised as among the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised peoples. Approximately they number to about 370 million in total. In recent years, the United Nations has evolved to increasingly accommodate indigenous voices and concerns by creating a system that particularly focus on the rights of indigenous peoples: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.<sup>viii</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Yet the challenge remains for indigenous peoples to see action from government to implement their international human rights in national laws, policies and programs.

## 2. Advocacies and Events

- Greenpeace campaign to protect Indonesia's rainforests and peatlands by continuously exposing APP's (Asia Pulp & Paper) chain of destruction. This campaign results to more and more global brands are deciding to stop doing business with the notorious forest destroyer. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/forests/asia-pacific/app/updates/>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is running a regional campaign that encourages individuals to buy virtual property across the Coral Triangle, the world's center of marine life. This innovative online MyCoralTriangle will lead online audiences to [www.mycoraltriangle.com](http://www.mycoraltriangle.com) where they can buy a "spot" in the Coral Triangle for just US\$5. The money raised will go towards WWF's ongoing efforts to conserve the region's spectacular environment in protected areas including Wakatobi and Semporna among others. The Coral Triangle encompasses Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor L'Este. It is home to 6 of the world's 7 species of marine turtles, and a place where whales, dolphins, dugongs, and the world's largest fish, the whale shark, live. <http://www.thecoraltriangle.com/campaigns/wwf-mycoraltriangle-campaign>. Over the last 100 years, the temperature of seawater in many tropical areas is continuously rising. Rising temperatures is said to block the photosynthetic reaction, which results to a build up of products that poison the zooxanthellae. Zooxanthellae are important to the growth of coral; to save itself, coral spits out the zooxanthellae, leaving the coral a bleached white. The bleached coral can recover, only if cooler water temperatures return and the algae are able to grow again.

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

- 9th Asia Pacific Conference on Sustainable Energy & Environmental Technologies (APCSEET) 2013, Japan. An international biennial forum that aims to address global challenges in sustainable development and balance growth with sustainability in the economic, social and environmental sectors. <http://apcseet2013.jimdo.com/home/>.

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

The Shimonoseki Labour Education Centre (LEC) in Japan and the Jesuit Research Centre for Advocacy and Solidarity (JAS) in Korea jointly held an Anti-nuclear Peace Conference in July 2012. The movement opposing nuclear power is strong in Japan since the Fukushima meltdown and irradiation. Information on nuclear power policy is continuously shared as well as their experiences in the peace movement. <http://sjapc.net/content/japan-and-korea-provinces-hold-anti-nuclear-peace-conference>

- Sustainability Science: A Science based Approach to realise the Future We Want for All. A conference organised by UNESCO in collaboration with ISTIC and MEXT-Japan held in Malaysia. The conference tackled the role of science in helping people understand the

origin/causes, scope, consequences and future scenarios as well as to uplift the position and role of science at the highest institutional and political levels, and develop “a new contract” between science and society.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SHS/pdf/Agenda\\_Sustainable-Science\\_Jakarta\\_2013.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SHS/pdf/Agenda_Sustainable-Science_Jakarta_2013.pdf)

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Jesuit universities and research institute in the Philippines and Belgium has taken up this topic as a particular focus during their academic conference in Mindanao last May 2013. The scientific community is challenged to strengthen further local, national and international collaboration and to take the initiative in providing knowledge needed for societal transformation. The effort is to link academic disciplines with a comprehensive and integrated point of view in building a sustainable future for our community and society. <http://sustainabilityscience.ph/?p=543>

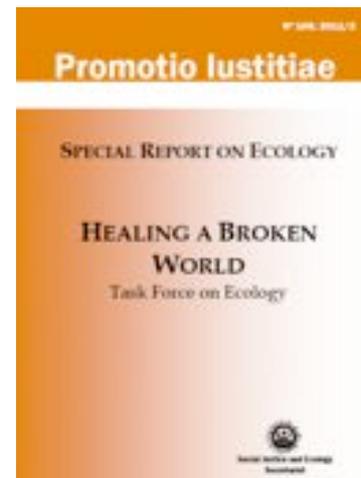
“Healing Earth Coordinators” course is underway. Ms. Jennie Hickey (Australia), Mr. Tarcisius Sarkim (SDU-Indonesia) and Ms. Iris Legal (JCAP/ESSC) are currently leading the drafting of course modules and content. The course is divided into three modes of learning: distance-learning (online), on-the-job learning (practical work) and face-to-face learning. Most of the modules are made online, with specific lecturer/moderator to be assigned to guide the participants. With the support of Fr. Chris Gleeson, Basic Education head in Asia Pacific, the course is to be offered, initially, to high school faculty: science, ethics, geology, etc. as well as to physical plant managers and ecology officers. Draft of course outline and content shall be shared by early 2014. For those interested, an online registration form is already available online, [http://jcap.essc.org.ph/?page\\_id=2124](http://jcap.essc.org.ph/?page_id=2124).

Emerging *Ecology and Culture Center* for engagement. Many Jesuit institutions, particularly those in mission areas are increasingly drawn to community resource and water management activities. With this, they seek JCAP-Ecology through Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) to assist them in the conduct of community resource mapping activity.

- Asia Water Week 2013, “Securing Water for All” organised by Asian Development Bank in Manila. The event was organised to deepen and expand analytical work in Asia’s water sector to advance inclusive policy reforms and strengthen support to priority programs and projects. <http://www.adb.org/news/events/asia-water-week-2013>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

This topic has been a focus for GIAN-Ecology where members



*“Care of the environment is an integral part of the Jesuit mission. It touches the core of our faith in and love for God”.*

*Emphasized in GC35 is the need to respond to ecological or environmental challenges, “to appreciate more deeply our covenant with creation”. This challenge calls for a transformative change in the way we respond to the urgent task of reconciliation with creation.*

<http://www.sjweb.info/documents/sjs/pjnew/PJ106ENG.pdf>

take part in the development of an action plan for Sharing and Safety of Water at the global level. Fr. Jose Ignacio Garcia and Pedro Walpole recently wrote an editorial for Ecojesuit on climate change and dialogue on values: <http://ecojesuit.com/climate-change-and-the-dialogue-with-values/5725/>

- Asia-Pacific Training for Policymakers and Practitioners on Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Adaptation conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in South Korea. The training aims to build the capacity of policy makers and practitioners to address migration challenges within climate change, development and environment policies and strategies. <http://sids-iisd.org/events/asia-pacific-training-for-policymakers-and-practitioners-on-migration-environment-climate-change-and-adaptation/>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

A major effort in the Philippines is now focused on this where government is pushing to get people live out of riverbanks and other high-risk areas.

### 3. Political Statements related to the Environment

- 6th August 2013 marks the 68th year anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. On that particular day, the first report on nuclear contamination of residents in Fukushima was identified. Most of Japan's nuclear power plants were taken offline since the Fukushima meltdown in 2011 caused by the earthquake and tsunami. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, "that as the sole country to face nuclear attack, Japan has the duty to seek to wipe out nuclear weapons". Yet, Abe favors restarting plants under new safety guidelines, while many Japanese oppose such restarts. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/08/06/japan-hiroshima-anniversary/2622707/#>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Jesuit Social Center in Japan is active in anti-nuclear advocacy and highlights related activities and reflections through their bi-monthly Social and Pastoral Bulletin: <http://www.jesuitsocialcenter-tokyo.com/eng/>

- In December 2012, Jesuit priests were imprisoned for opposing the construction of a naval base at Gangjeong Village in Jeju Island. The Korean Province says, "with the understanding that this problem is international in scope we will spread awareness of it and join in close solidarity with the Jesuits of North America and also to our own region, the Jesuits of the Asia Pacific." A re-examination of naval construction is on going with the hope that violence is lessened. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21671>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Recently, Pedro Walpole went to visit Gangjeong Village (Jeju Island), a site of an ongoing protest against the construction of a naval base. Fr. Francis Mun-su Park SJ, director of the Jesuit Research Center for Advocacy and Solidarity in Seoul, prepared an excerpts of the reflection on the Gangjeong engagement: <http://ecojesuit.com/memory-and-mission-gangjeong-reflections/5879/>

- Philippines National Housing Authority General Manager Chito Cruz: "P10 billion had been disbursed in 2012 and the same amount is set to be released this year and every year



"Healing a Broken World: Reflections on Ecology and Nuclear Energy: The Great East Japan".

The Province of Japan has translated "Healing a Broken World" document to Japanese, adding a list of documents on ecological, nuclear and energy issues concerning the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011 disaster that became "signs of the times" for Japan.

[http://www.jesuitsocialcenter-tokyo.com/eng/?page\\_id=2702](http://www.jesuitsocialcenter-tokyo.com/eng/?page_id=2702)

Similarly, Province of Korea has commissioned some members to translate "Healing a Broken World" to Korean language, along with the previous document, "We Live in a Broken World." The translated "concrete suggestions" section has been made available to some communities for their consideration.

thereafter until 2016 for the relocation of informal settlers to permanent housing at the rate of 20,000 families per year. The priority are those living along waterways, under bridges – no ifs or buts".

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/06/20/956013/p50-b-allocated-eviction-waterway-squatters>

Where we are, our Ignatian response:

There are limitations but this shows a shift from violent relocations of the past, closer to city locations and no-hazard locations.

- Ma's National Day Address (Taiwan): President Ma Ying-jeou said during his National Day speech "Taiwan Strait has become one of the most peaceful waterways and most prosperous passages in Asia through his administration's efforts in promoting rapprochement and cooperation with mainland China..." "Commitment to our children: a liberalized and prosperous economic environment, a rational and caring civil society, a peaceful cross-strait relationship, and a friendly and cooperative space for ourselves in the international community, this our niche, and our way forward".  
<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201310100004.aspx>.

Where we are, our Ignatian response:

However, a question remains on how this commitment is translated to local policies and programs.

- Opening Remarks H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand on the Inauguration of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Japan: "Water' is 'life'. All human beings realize that 'lack of water' is 'lack of life'. On the other hand, the power of excessive water overflow or inundation is destructive and it could take lives of human beings' not less than conditions of drought and water shortage..." "In Thailand... in regard to water resources management, we should attach importance to comprehensive and coordinated implementation of the entire system. Natural disasters do not recognize the border or differences in people. Water flows from highland to lowland geographically by gravity. We should, therefore, collaborate in strengthening water security."  
[http://www.waterforum.jp/en/what\\_we\\_do/pages/policy\\_recommendations/APWF/2nd\\_APWS/outcome/doc/Opening\\_Statement\\_H.E\\_Yingluck\\_Shinawatra.pdf](http://www.waterforum.jp/en/what_we_do/pages/policy_recommendations/APWF/2nd_APWS/outcome/doc/Opening_Statement_H.E_Yingluck_Shinawatra.pdf)

Where we are, our Ignatian response:

Yet this remains a challenge for countries to realise a plan beyond political boundaries and consider a trans-boundary planning and cooperation.

#### 4. Policies and Regional Treaties impacting the Environment

- Members of APEC agreed to Indonesia's initiative to push crude palm oil (CPO) in joining the Environmental Goods (EG) list. At the ministerial level meeting session of APEC Summit 2013 in Nusa Dua, Bali, the initiative was written in a document called "Promoting Products with a Contribution to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth through Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation".<sup>ix</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

CPO is accepted as it presents four important parameters: sustainability, inclusivity, driving rural development and poverty alleviation. The proposal is ideal but we must also consider asking question as to where are these oil palms are planted – are they planted in previously forested areas? Are forests being converted to plantation to address the demand for crude palm oil?

- Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a free-trade agreement being negotiated by 12 nations: US, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, Chile, Canada, Mexico and Peru. This would be a platform for economic integration and government deregulation for nations surrounding the Pacific Rim and facilitate free trade to counter China's financial influence in Asia Pacific. Other Pacific Rim countries could join over time, and the Philippines, Thailand, Colombia, and others are already expressing interest. The Pacific Rim is an area of great significance from an environmental perspective, which includes Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system, Peru and its Amazon Rainforest, known as one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth.<sup>x</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

However, oppositions viewed this as harmful to our environment, subverting climate change measures and regulation of mining, land use and biotechnology.

- The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has released a Strategy Paper on "Sustainable and Inclusive Urbanization in Asia Pacific" dated 30 June 2013 and released on 9 September. It outlined potential activities and points of entry for UNDP to support governments and local communities in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. It recommends that UNDP encourage cross-sectoral implementation through focusing on: urban governance and empowerment, especially in secondary cities and peri-urban areas; poverty and vulnerability; environmental sustainability, energy efficiency and climate resilience; and disaster risk reduction (DRR).<sup>xi</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

While this presents a general guide for cities within Asia Pacific, there is a need for contextualising the impacts as they vary. It is important to stress that climate change will intensify and aggravate existing conditions in areas previously exposed to lower levels of risks. The principles set encompass a global perspective and pro-poor approach to climate change, adaptation and resilience. The principles are based on the assumption that plans and initiatives have to be pro-poor but the question that must be address is: what is exactly meant by pro-poor?<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Read related article on Human development in the context of city growth, <http://essc.org.ph/content/view/735/153/>

- Asian Development Bank project: developing policy and financing responses to environmental migration. It has been determined that climate change will increase forced migration due to environmental disruptions in Asia Pacific. The adoption of timely policies and programs can convert such migration from a threat into an opportunity to promote improved livelihoods and sustainable development. The project emphasizes the importance of boosting the capacity and resilience of vulnerable communities. <sup>xii</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Asia Pacific responds to forced migration and displacement of people in the context of climate change. JRS activities show that effective response to internal migration must go far beyond simply social welfare. International aid and relief organisations often try to deal with internally displaced peoples (IDPs) on the basis of “band-aid” solutions, they fail to recognise the capacity of IDPs themselves.<sup>3</sup>

- The 4th Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Mining (MRM4) held last June 2012 in St. Petersburg, Russia has come up with a Joint Statement where Ministers recognised the significance of sustainable development in mining and believe this can be achieved through regional integration, fostering investment, increasing social responsibility, innovation and environmental advances in mining and metallurgy. <sup>xiii</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a globally developed set of standards and processes that ensures more transparency and better government of mineral resources in a country. This process assures that what the company pays and what the government receives is the same. EITI is seen as a step forward but there are areas still remain unanswered. For instance in the Philippines, we cannot measure the no-go areas to mining in the Philippines in the same way that we cannot manage the movement of mining companies into such areas. Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) and Jesuit Social Services-Australia seek to develop this process by documenting the case of Tampakan mining in southern Philippines.<sup>4</sup> See section on Jesuit Social Apostolate-Philippines for “Talking-Points on Mining in the Philippines”.

- Human rights and environmental groups, both in Indonesia and overseas, have urged the United Nations to pressure the government to suspend a huge agro-industrial project of Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE). Twenty-seven organizations, including Down to Earth in the UK, West Papua Netzwerk of Germany and Indonesia’s Pusaka, said MIFEE threatens the community life of the Malind tribe. <sup>xiv</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Read related articles on JRS in Asia Pacific:

- a. Jesuit Refugee Service in Asia Pacific: Responding to climate-induced displacement, <http://ecojesuit.com/jesuit-refugee-service-in-asia-pacific-responding-to-climate-induced-displacement/4526/>
- b. Ecological dimension of internal migration and displacement, <http://ecojesuit.com/ecological-dimension-of-internal-migration-and-displacement/3620/>

<sup>4</sup> Related article on EITI in the Philippines, <http://ecojesuit.com/eiti-in-the-philippines-a-step-forward-globally-but-problems-remain-locally/5288/>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Aside from helping indigenous communities assert their rights, it is also a challenge to share and develop standards, skills and approaches that develop indigenous education institutions and educators into leaders in the field at an international level. Redfern Jarjum College (Australia) and Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center (Philippines) are some of the Jesuit schools in the region that provides basic education to indigenous youth.<sup>5</sup>

- The Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) was commissioned by IPCC in response to a recognised need to provide specific advice on climate change, extreme weather and climate events. According to report, the first nine months of 2011 80% of all economic losses from natural disasters occurred in Asia Pacific. The number of natural catastrophes in Asia has risen from under 100 in 1980 to over 300 in 2010, with the largest growth is in hydrological events e.g. flooding and mass movement. Between 1980 and 2010 Asia experienced 4,950 weather related catastrophes, more than any other continent over the same period; Asia has suffered 51% of the world's reported fatalities from natural catastrophes (1.16 million people).<sup>xv</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Evidence suggests that disaster risk will continue to increase in many countries. Climate change has shifted the magnitude and frequency of weather climate events with more vulnerable people and assets exposed to weather extremes. It is us that now must change in our attitudes to consumption and resource use.

<sup>5</sup> Related websites:

- a. Redfern Jarjum College, <http://www.rjc.nsw.edu.au/>
- b. Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center, <http://www.apc.essc.org.ph/>

## 5. Disasters

- Floods, droughts, hurricanes, storm surges and landslides represent **90% of the world's disasters, and 90% of the people affected by these water-related disasters live in Asia.**<sup>xvi</sup> Asia is home to 75% of vulnerable urban populations in coastal zones.<sup>xvii</sup> While improved forecasting has reduced the number of deaths from water-related disasters, the costs of flood disasters have increased over time, with damages estimated to be over \$61 billion in 2011.<sup>xviii</sup>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

- "Super Typhoon Usagi: the most potent tropical cyclone in 2013 battered the Philippines and the Chinese coast". The center of the storm passed over the Philippines' Batanes islands, destroying crops, downing trees and cutting off electricity. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Flights are cancelled and schools and offices are closed in Taiwan. Red alert, highest warning was raised in Hong Kong and China, killing at least 25 people on the mainland, causing power shutdown and flooding. **Since January 2013, about 24 typhoons and tropical depressions have had passed through the region,** damaging millions of properties and resource, claiming hundreds of people's lives.

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

- Indonesia Burning: Forest Fires Flare to Alarming Levels - See more at: <http://insights.wri.org/news/2013/08/indonesia-burning-forest-fires-flare-alarming-levels#sthash.d4qMQymg.dpuf>. Pollution level in Singapore hits record high (401 PSI) from Indonesia fire. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22998592>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

- The fire danger index is rising, particularly in southeast Australia. Australia's early bushfires in 2013 may be part of an on going trend towards an increase in both the overall fire danger and the length of the bushfire season. Bushfire cooperative Research Centre suggests that above-average rainfall, which led to increased grass growth, followed by record high temperatures, has created an above-average risk of fires in large areas of Australia for 2013-2014. <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2013/sep/27/australia-bushfire-weather-increase>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

- China's major cities have some of the world's worst smog as air pollution soars to 40 times higher than International Safety Standard. Typically in northern China, winter brings the worst air pollution because of a combination of weather conditions and an increase in the burning of coal for homes and municipal heating systems. During this season, many are suffering from asthma and other respiratory illnesses, majority of which are children and the elderly. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/21/super-smog-beijing-china\\_n\\_4134226.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/21/super-smog-beijing-china_n_4134226.html).

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

Recently China's Cabinet released an action plan that aims to lessen the country's heavy reliance on coal. This brings us to question how can we balance economic development and human health safety and environmental sustainability?

## 6. Discoveries

- New species:
  - A new species of bird with a distinctive orange-red colored tuft of feathers on its head has been found in Cambodia. The bird was named after a Phnom Penh riverfront area "chaktomuk" — the conjunction of three rivers — where it was found. <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/27/asia-pacific/cambodia-finds-new-bird-species/#.UleV1xyPgao>
  - A new species of shark that "walks" along the seabed using its fins as tiny legs has been discovered in eastern Indonesia. <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/lifestyle/walking-shark-discovered/796520.html>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

- New technology:

- A Philippines building powered by solar energy and built from old plastic bottles was opened during the Earth Day 2013 celebration to showcase renewable energy and highlight the problem of waste ahead. The Solar Revolution Pavilion is a 200 square-metre, 6-metre high structure built of 1,600 plastic vegetable crates containing reused plastic bottles. The crates will eventually become eco-friendly bricks for a school library's walls. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/apr/22/earth-day-2013-philippines-plastic-bottles>
- New initiatives to promote technology innovation transfer and diffusion included the Asia Clean Technology Exchange, the Asia Climate Change and Clean Energy Venture Capital Initiative, the Climate Public–Private Partnership Fund, the Asia Solar Energy Initiative, and the Quantum Leap in Wind Power. <http://www.adb.org/sectors/energy/overview>
- Taiwan's plastic bottle building, 85 meters long: EcoARK Exhibition Hall. Not just a bottle picked off the street. Polli-Brick from Hymini is made from recycled PET bottles. The building can be disassembled and then reassembled elsewhere. <http://www.inspirationgreen.com/plastic-bottle-homes.html>
- “Beijing introduces recycling banks that pay subway credits for plastic bottles”. Subway owners in Beijing offers passenger the ability to pay their bills with plastic bottles thus help preserve the environment. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/jul/04/beijing-recycling-banks-subway-bottles>

*Where we are, our Ignatian response:*

*L-R: (1) Student activities to understand catchment concerns (Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview-Australia). (2) An indigenous youth engages in assisted reforestation activity in his community (Bendum, Mindanao-Philippines). (3) Green Paradise a place where high school students plant and do their “green” and sustainability projects (Wah Yan School, Hong Kong).*



## B. PARTICULAR QUESTIONS/REFLECTIONS FOR ACTION

Below are some of the environmental concerns emerging in Asia Pacific region that need particular response and action. Some of the concerns may be trans-boundary in origin while others may be only of significant to a specific province or country. Jesuit people in the Conference particularly “Fr. Greens and Mr./Mrs. Greens” as well as sustainability officers/healing earth coordinators are asked to share their experiences and learnings on how we may develop strategy to deepen and have active engagement on ***Reconciling with Creation***.

- 5th Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): The scientific community is finding new trends and scenarios where changes in the global water cycle in response to the warming will be uniform. The contrast in precipitation between wet and dry seasons will increase, although there may be regional exceptions. Human activities are primarily seen as major culprit to climate change. The challenge to many is to create programs and actions that would lessen the impact of extreme weather events. This brings us to the attention of attitude and lifestyle change, where the Conference remains committed to pursue as a primary concern for action.
- “The business of water is for all”. Water is critical to all life and we must recognise its interdependence when it comes to water issues. We are all affected by the issues of water scarcity and must therefore participate in finding the solutions through cooperation and collaboration. 2013 is the International Year of Water Cooperation with UN identifying several opportunities for working together to ensure sustainable water use. In Asia Pacific water is taken up as a topic of priority particularly on the issue of water-related disaster such as flooding and landslides.
- The adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by the UN General Assembly in 2007 is a historic milestone for indigenous peoples. However, it remains a big challenge for indigenous peoples in Asia especially on the legal recognition and integration to national laws and policies of states. In recent World Youth Day celebration in Brazil, Pope Francis encouraged all to respect and protect creation and indigenous peoples. We are encouraged to understand the important role indigenous peoples play in our common survival, where they put high priority on protecting and using sustainably biodiversity in their lands and waters.
- Transformative education: the search for transformation is about the search for values that can help us take on the responsibility for sustaining the one earth we have, and this cannot be done solely through acquiring information or knowledge. The search for transformation entails finding a secular language that can be understood in a diversity of life situations to encourage dialogue on values and bring out the wisdom from local contexts to address global challenges.
- Can migration be a form of climate change adaptation? Many are moving out from their original communities as a way to improve livelihoods. But increasingly, many are using migration as way to respond to the impacts of climate change; this displacement is often induced by vulnerability to environmental risk. A study carried out by Care International and the UN University reveals that in nearly all instances where rains have become too scarce for farming, people have migrated only within the national borders. In most cases, households use migration when rains and food becomes scarce but often it is during the “hunger season” when

households send migrants to obtain food or money to buy food.<sup>xix</sup> In the case of Mekong Delta communities, mobility is a significant strategy to cope to reduce exposure to hazards but it also transforms livelihoods thus create new vulnerabilities.

- Call for “simpler lifestyles”: many Jesuit schools and institutions in the region are working on promoting simpler lifestyles. It is important that we are able to document their experiences so others may learn. Interestingly, Christian Life Community see the importance of teaching their children basic values, for examples in considering the impact of wasting water. This way of learning values and in advocating by doing expresses a new common wisdom.
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) as a response to food insecurity and poverty alleviation concerns: In the case of the Philippines, genetically modified maize or “hybrid maize” (Bt maize) is increasingly introduced to upland farmers in Mindanao. Farmers are given the promise of increased profits. With this, most farmland and hills are planted with GM maize and with only few farmers planting native (yellow and white) maize for household consumption. Thus, this creates greater food insecurity for agriculture-dependent communities. We cannot simply implement projects to sustain greater security and human development. We need to help community improve their capacity to develop basic plans, with an understanding of the market trend and inflation. It is also critical that we enable community capacity to ensure their security in food, shelter and other social needs for human development.
- Ivory trade and trafficking/poaching: how we may lessen demand from religious and church and other groups to prevent killings of elephants? Although much of raw materials for ivory trade are coming from Africa, trafficked tusks are transported to Asia Pacific particularly Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand for China and Japan market. Though ivory trade has been banned since 1989, the business is still on going. There is an effort from the African youth community to reach out to youth organizations in the Philippines and start a conversation about ivory trade and wildlife protection among the youth.
- Mining, mineral and metal industries are seen very important to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members as majority of its trade and investment come from these commodities. Many Asia Pacific countries derive important economic and social benefits from the development, use and trade of minerals and metals. Private mining investments are generally attracted to do business in region for rich natural resources reserve with many areas yet to be explored and developed. While mining impacts employment and community development projects are important, it has also impact people forcing them from their homes and land, preventing them from accessing clean land and water and sometimes causing divisions among communities.
- The accident in Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant in March 2011 has urged Japanese bishops, Jesuit people and broader civil society to advocate for immediate abolishment of nuclear plants in the country. To date, there are 54 nuclear plants that are at risk of accidents either cause by human-generated or natural disasters like earthquake or tsunami. Many, particularly religious and faith-based organizations call for “reverence for life” and wiped out the “safety myth”, where people have put too much trust on science and technology without having the wisdom of knowing the limits. Japan and Korea Jesuit Provinces have come together for an anti-nuclear peace discussion where people shared information on nuclear power policy and their experiences in the peace movement.
- Asia Pacific is recorded as the leading forest plantation development in the world. According

to FAO, of the ten countries in the world largest plantation areas, five are in the Asia Pacific region, namely China, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam. In the case of Indonesia, large areas, in many cases indigenous peoples lands are converted to monocrop plantation such as oil palm. According to World Bank report, large-scale plantation offers communities a way to get out of poverty by the employment it generates and payment it creates for rent and lease of land. While, government asked indigenous peoples to keep their land, they also have the control over process of land allocation for plantation and the same time can transport people out of their land to areas where large companies are operating, making them as smallholders of the company. There is no judgement in the process but we have to carefully look into the impact of opportunities plantation companies have to the land but also most importantly to communities and their community life.

- Business ethics – “teaching poverty in schools”. It is not common for us to teach poverty in business schools. Yet, it is our challenge today to really teach poverty and develop the theory and practice to change the systems and inspire the capacity for greater equity and opportunity. It is not an easy job however; teaching business ethics used an extension of Ignatian spirituality “finding God (good) in all things”, “inculturation” and at the same time teaching business ethics. It is our hope to help graduates form a vision of their future lives and operates in ways by which human condition is improved and addressed human needs. Graduates of business schools must be able to provide products of services in excellence but more importantly are able to discern continually and make human needs a focus of economic effort. Related article: <http://ecojesuit.com/teaching-poverty-teaching-transparency-in-our-business-schools/5637/>

*“In heeding the call to restore right relationships with creation, Jesuit people are encourage to engaged in the same mission to promote studies and practices focusing on the causes of poverty and the question of the environment’s improvement... Jesuit people need to find ways in which our experiences could interact with those institutions, so that our research and advocacy have effective practical benefits for society and the environment” – GC35, 34-35*



Naval construction at Jeju Island, South Korea



An interfaith activity in Cambodia

## C. IGNATIAN ECOLOGICAL EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS (AND MOVEMENTS?)

There are many on going ecological initiatives happening with the Conference. Some of these ecological activities and communications are presented:

**JCAP ministries** <http://sjapc.net/>

- Basic education interested to partner with Ecology program, particularly on Healing Earth Coordinators course
- JCIIM integrates Ecology in developing program and course elective for scholastics

### **Australia**

- Curriculum review in basic education to integrate ecology in geography, ethics, etc. and students activities. On going initiative on sustainability certification. Communication portal: <http://gonzaganet.org/>. This network aimed at informing and involving students and alumni from Jesuit and Ignatian schools, as well as teachers, parents and other relevant people, in the province's social ministries.
- Jesuit Social Services integrated ecology in their program by crafting their own Environmental Way of Proceeding. Recently, they have signed up for Flights for Forests program.

### **Cambodia**

- Tree planting activities and waste segregation and management initiatives. Communication: Fr. Gabby Lamug-Nañawa contributing articles to JCAP and Ecojesuit news.

### **China**

- Accompanying communities in managing water systems to secure clean water especially during the summer/dry season. Casa Ricci conducts community visits and discussions, including youth.
- Wah Yan School in Hong Kong continues to promote “care for the environment” to students, faculty, staff as well as to parents and local partners. The school continue to implement waste segregation and recycling program where students and teachers are actively involved in the program. For more details: <http://ecojesuit.com/students-in-hong-kong-show-that-food-waste-is-not-rubbish/5436/>, <http://ecojesuit.com/sustainability-development-in-schools-hong-kong/5036/>

### **Indonesia**

- Waste segregation and management initiatives in Jesuit houses and parish. The province has also set an ecology discussion in November 2013, which focus on environmental ethics.
- JRS is conducting a review on the post-disaster initiatives at Aceh.

### **Japan**

- Province has translated “Healing a Broken World” (HBW) to their local language so others may better understand the document. Further, Kojimachi Church and Jesuit Social Center

organised a regular (every 1st & 2nd Wednesday of the month) seminar on HBW. Topics related to ecology are discussed following see (observing)-judge (thinking)-act (action) framework of engagement. [http://www.jesuitsocialcenter-tokyo.com/eng/?page\\_id=3689](http://www.jesuitsocialcenter-tokyo.com/eng/?page_id=3689)

- Environmental topics included in the social commitments of Jesuit Social Center: ecology, nuclear. Communication portal: Social Pastoral Bulletin <http://www.jesuitsocialcenter-tokyo.com/eng/>

### **Korea**

- Province has translated “Healing a Broken World” to their own language for deeper discussion with Jesuit community/ scholastics.
- Jesuit Research Center for Advocacy and Solidarity focused on promoting justice and peace in the region. Part of the initiative is the campaign for the restoration of the natural flows of the Four Rivers in Korea. Now, the center is supporting the campaign of few Jesuits at Jeju Island to stop the naval construction, which potentially affects culture and environmental condition of the island. Communication portal: <http://advocacy.jesuits.kr/>

### **Malaysia-Singapore**

- Parish: expressed interest to engaged with Our Environmental Way of Proceeding reflection

### **Myanmar**

### **Philippines**

- SJSA developed a document “The Golden Mean in Mining: Talking Points”. As Fr. Robert Rivera writes, this document aimed “to help not just in guiding (Jesuit) institutional involvements but also in re-animating public discussions and responses to this issue.”
- JBEC is planning to include ecology as process of engaging basic education heads and faculty to their next year’s meeting.
- Increasingly, scholastics from LST and Arrupe are joining international course on human development and natural resource management as part of their summer elective course.

### **Thailand**

- Seminary and youth center in Bangkok has expressed interest to engage with OEWP reflection. This activity is coordinated through Fr. Mahar.

### **Timor Leste**

- JRS is shifting to JSS under Mr. Isidero and Jose with the engagement of scholastics and other groups. Work continues with the Hurta area and is beginning in the Kasit where the highschool is developing. On going community water systems review in Jesuit mission areas. There are many challenges arising out of this and Eric Bruno of ESSC spent three months talking with community and learning the landscape, which connects with the parish of Ragni. It is not clear what will happen to Dari agroforestry site but it is an ideal Ecology and Culture Center.

### **Vietnam**

## D. WAYS FORWARD

The engagement process has been slow, perhaps frustrating to some – for those who are accustomed with keeping project timelines and schedules. The nature of engagement has been more of accompanying Jesuit people in ecology project than simply implementation. Accompanying means being open and willing to listen and to learn, and not just take the lead. We do not undermine the many ecological initiatives happening in the region but the challenge remains for us to work together and collaborate.

There are two dynamics emerging:

- Water-disasters related engagement (that connects with the global under the water agenda).
- Healing a Broken World/Our Environmental Way of Proceeding reflection workshop that continues to be used as an introduction but can be given as reflection and youth seminar.

It is recognised that JCAP ecology coordinator cannot cover every province/country and keep them online such as: Korea, Japan, MAS, HK/Taiwan but strengthening coordination with “Fr. and Ms. Greens” is critical in sustaining the work.

It is also important to develop a strategy on how we may support SBC in animating their conversation points on ecology, which was drawn up during SBC 2012 workshop in Siam Reap.

### ***Meeting in May 2014***

Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) along with Jesuit universities in the Philippines and Belgium is organising a conference on Transformative Land and Water Governance. The conference seeks to encourage exchange of knowledge and experience among participants in how they are learning, creating and accompanying different stakeholders to transform land and water governance.

Specifically, the conference aims to explore land and water governance concerns in the context of the following themes: (i) sustainability science, (ii) local wisdom, risk resilience and adaptation, and (iii) youth and values. These themes were chosen to connect broader topics discussed in the international arena. They also platforms for presenting current work on social vulnerability and disaster risk reduction while bringing in the new dimensions of migration and agro-economics where future research needs to focus.

The conference targets to broaden participation and include agricultural institutes and water research connected to community realities as well as civil society organizations and development institutions with programs or projects contributing to land and water management, disaster risk reduction or youth capacity building, youth groups with initiatives in building capacities for interfacing culture and environment and young professionals who are involved in movements that address socio-environmental concerns.

So far, the Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN)-Ecology has expressed interest in sponsoring around 10-15 international and local participants from various Jesuit social institutions where a number of them come from JCAP-Ecology network working on youth and community realities.

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- <sup>iv</sup> Energy Pacific Summit Report 2013: Forging Trans-Pacific Cooperation a New Energy Era, [http://www.nbr.org/downloads/pdfs/ETA/PES\\_2013\\_report.pdf](http://www.nbr.org/downloads/pdfs/ETA/PES_2013_report.pdf)
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- <sup>vi</sup> Ibid, p.xxxiv
- <sup>vii</sup> 2013 UNHCR country operations profile, Asia and the Pacific, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a02d8ec6.html>
- <sup>viii</sup> Asia Pacific Forum, Advancing Human Rights in our Region. <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/support/issues/indigenous-peoples>
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- <sup>xiii</sup> 2012 APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Mining: Joint Statement. [http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Mining/2012\\_mining.aspx](http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Mining/2012_mining.aspx)
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## **JESUIT CONFERENCE OF ASIA PACIFIC (JCAP)**

3/F Sonolux Building, Ateneo de Manila Campus  
Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 1108 PHILIPPINES

<http://sjapc.net/>

### ***Reconciliation with Creation – Ecology***

Telefax: +63 2 426 0554

For *general inquiry, feedback, update, question, or story, article for JCAP/Ecojesuit*:  
Email: [pedrocojcap@gmail.com](mailto:pedrocojcap@gmail.com),  
[irisecoicap@gmail.com](mailto:irisecoicap@gmail.com)

For *Flights for Forests inquiry, registration/contribution*:  
Email: [irisecoicap@gmail.com](mailto:irisecoicap@gmail.com)

For *Sustainability Courses inquiry*:  
Email: [marielecojcap@gmail.com](mailto:marielecojcap@gmail.com)

For *Mining related concerns*:  
Email: [sylviamiclat@essc.org.ph](mailto:sylviamiclat@essc.org.ph)

For *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management related concerns*:  
Email: [rsoriaga@gmail.com](mailto:rsoriaga@gmail.com)

***You may also get in touch with your “Fr. & Mrs. Greens” for ecology update, story, feedback, or question:***

AUSTRALIA     Jennie Hickey  
Email            [jhickey@sjasl.org.au](mailto:jhickey@sjasl.org.au)

MICRONESIA     Gregory Muchenhaupt SJ  
Email            [gmuckenhaupt@gmail.com](mailto:gmuckenhaupt@gmail.com)

CAMBODIA     Gabby Lamug-Nanawa SJ  
Email            [gabbyln@yahoo.com](mailto:gabbyln@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINES     Pedro Walpole SJ  
Email            [pedrocojcap@gmail.com](mailto:pedrocojcap@gmail.com)

CHINA            Dominique Tyl SJ  
Email            [domtyl@riccimac.org](mailto:domtyl@riccimac.org)

THAILAND        Vichai Phoktavi SJ  
Email            [vphokthavi@yahoo.com](mailto:vphokthavi@yahoo.com)

INDONESIA        Greg Soetomo SJ  
Email            [gsoetomo@hotmail.com](mailto:gsoetomo@hotmail.com)

VIETNAM         Michael Tam SJ  
Email            [mitasj@yahoo.com](mailto:mitasj@yahoo.com)

KOREA            Mun-su Park SJ  
Email            [munsupark@sogang.ac.kr](mailto:munsupark@sogang.ac.kr)