



FABC NEWSLETTER

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IN THE CONFERENCES:

Appointed: Father Simiao Purificação Fernandes as Auxiliary Bishop of Goa e Damão, India; Father Wilfred Gregory Moras as Coadjutor Bishop of Jhansi, India; Father Antony Valumkal as Auxiliary Bishop of Verapoly, India; Father Ronald Anthony P. Timoner as Administrator of the Diocese of Daet, Philippines; Father Paulus Budi Kleden, S.V.D. as Archbishop of Ende, Indonesia; Bishop Joseph Yang Yongqiang as Bishop of Hangzhou [Hangchow], China; Father Rafael Tambao-An Cruz as Bishop of Baguio, Philippines; Father Maksimus Regus as Bishop of Labuan Bajo, Indonesia; Bishop Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, Bishop of Chiang Mai, Thailand as Apostolic Administrator of Bangkok; Thailand.

Resigned: Bishop Pius Thomas D'Souza as Bishop of Ajmer, India.

Retired: Archbishop Felix Anthony Machado as Bishop of Vasai, India; Francis Xavier Kriengsak Cardinal Kovithavanij as Archbishop of Bangkok, Thailand.

Died: Bishop Vincent Marius Joseph Peiris (82), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Bishop Joseph Suren Gomes, S.D.B. (80+), Bishop Emeritus of Krishnagar, India; Bishop Vincent Marius Joseph Peiris (82+), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Bishop Devadass Ambrose Mariadoss (76+), Bishop Emeritus of Tanjore, India; Archbishop Thumma Bala (80+), Archbishop Emeritus of Hyderabad, India.

FABC DATEBOOK:

- 15 – 20 July 2024, FABC Central Secretariat will hold the 2024 FABC Bishops Synodal Leadership Seminar – Workshop at Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 22 – 27 July 2024, FABC Office of Laity & Family (OLF) will hold seminar on the FABC Bangkok Document 2023: A Challenge Towards the Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life at Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 17 – 19 September 2024, FABC Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Regional Gatherings (South Asia) in Sri Lanka.

FABC PAPER 186-190

FABC Paper 186-190 compile the responses of the Asian Church to the preparation for the synod in October 2024 each entitled: *TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024, The Asian Response to Deepening Aspects of the Synthesis Report of the Synod, October 2023, Guided by the question: "HOW can we be a synodal Church in mission?"*

FABC Paper 186 includes: FABC RESPONSE TO THE SYNTHESIS REPORT, "How can we be a synodal Church on mission?"; Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan (CBCJ); Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea (CBCK); Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference (CRBC); Diocese of Hong Kong; Diocese of Macau.

FABC Paper 187 includes: Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB); Conference of Catholic

Bishops of India (CCBI); Pakistan Catholic Bishops Conference (PCBC); Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka (CBCSL); Syro-Malabar Church; Apostolic Vicariate of Nepal.

FABC Paper 188 includes: Konferensi Waligereja Indonesia (KWI) / Bishops' Conference of Indonesia; Catholic Church in Cambodia; Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei (CBCMSB): a. Summary from the Church in Malaysia, b. Contributions from the Archdiocese of Singapore, Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam; Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar (CBCM).

FABC Paper 189 includes: Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP); Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand (CBCT); Conferencia Episcopal Timorese (CET) / Episcopal Conference of Timor Leste; Catholic Bishops' Conference of Vietnam (CBCV).

FABC Paper 190 is dedicated to the newest FABC conference - Central Asia. It includes: Summary of the Synodal Process in Central Asia (CECAC); Diocese of Almaty; Diocese of Karaganda; Church in Kyrgyzstan; Apostolic Prefecture of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Church in Tajikistan; First Regional Meeting on Evangelization--Central Asian Bishops' Conference.

SYNOD OCTOBER 2024

In a letter dated 20 June 2024, Cardinal Mario Grech informed Bishop Paul Simick of the Apostolic Vicariate of Nepal that he is requesting a representative of the three FABC Associate Members to the Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October this year.

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION

The Office of Evangelization of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC OE) organized a 'Gathering of Pioneering Missionaries' from the 18th-21st April, 2024. The Gathering was attended by 23 full-time missionaries from 13 countries. The Gathering took place in the context of the Silver Jubilee of 'Ecclesia in Asia' and the 10th anniversary of 'Evangelii Gaudium.'

The Office of Evangelization held Regional Conferences. The Southeast Asia conference was in Vietnam from 10–13 June 2024. This comprised 34 participants from 7 countries, 19 Bishops, 9 Priests, 3 religious sisters, and 3 lay people. The East Asia conference was held in Taiwan, from June 17-20, 2024. It had 36 participants from 7 countries comprising 6 Bishops, 13 Priests, 1 deacon, 1 religious sister, and 15 lay people. There was a Gathering of Ecclesial Movements in Malaysia 23– 24 June 2024. There were 31 people from 7 countries for the gathering representing 14 ecclesial movements.



ASIAN BISHOPS ATTEND COMMUNICATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Thirteen bishops from four Asian countries attended a 5-day workshop titled: Synodal Church: Episcopal FABC OSC Communication Ministry and Communication in Bangkok, April 15-20. The workshop is part of the Bishops Institute for Social Communication (BISCOM) which is aimed at offering animation and ongoing formation for bishops. BISCOM 2024 covered a wide range of issues around the theme “Synodal Church: Episcopal Ministry and Communication”, including the synodal journey and the synthesis report, the various communication documents from Inter Mirifica, crisis management and public relations, artificial intelligence in episcopal ministry.



OHD/CCD: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN ASIA

The Office of Human Development (OHD) and Climate Change Desk (CCD) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences organized a workshop, sponsored by MISEREOR, on Building Climate Resilient Communities in Asia from April 12-15, 2024 at the Caritas Philippines Development Centre in Tagaytay City, Philippines. There were thirty-five participants comprising of Bishops, priests and religious from nine countries – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam participated in the workshop.



OHD/CCD: RELIGIOUS FROM ASIA: RESPONSE TO LAUDATO SI' AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Office of Human Development (OHD) and Climate Change Desk (CCD) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) organized a workshop, sponsored by CAFOD, on Religious from Asia: Response to Laudato Si' and Ecological Sustainability from April 16-19, 2024 at the Caritas Philippines Development Centre in Tagaytay city, Philippines. There were thirty-seven participants at this workshop comprised of priests and religious from sixteen congregations across the countries of Philippines, India, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

FABC OTC– A NEW PAPER

The FABC Office for Theological Concerns finished another theological project entitled “The Asian Face of Synodality” which it hopes will be published soon as an FABC Paper. OTC took the Emmaus Bible text (Luke 24: 13-35) as the framework of the whole paper journeying like the disciples on the road through the socio-cultural, historical, sacramental and pastoral reflections on Synodality in Asian settings. OTC started working on this project a year ago. OTC practices communal reflection and writing. After a prayerful discernment on what theological project to pursue, it will brainstorm on areas to research and write on, divide into small groups who are interested in writing on specific parts of the paper. In its annual meeting in May 2024, in Kuching, Malaysia, the paper was run through a few times. Now it is with the executive secretary for final editing before being submitted to the FABC Central Office by the end of July. Communal writing and learning have been sources of building up both the theological expertise and community life of OTC members. In every annual meeting also, OTC attempts to be in a different place so as to learn the local theologizing scene and engage with local theologians. The OTC was able to dialogue with the young people, with the indigenous community of Bidayuh, as well as the local parishes. They were welcomed so warmly by the teachers and seminarians of the St Joseph Seminary and the local ordinary Archbishop Simon Poh.

SECOND CONSULTATION MEETING ON SYNODAL FORMATION IN ASIA

OTC is also responsible for holding BITA seminars or Bishops' Institute for Theological Animation. However, it had the idea of inviting the chairmen and executive secretaries of the FABC Offices to organize a Second Consultation Meeting on Synodal Formation in Asia in May 2025. After the zoom meeting they agreed to 1) assign the organizing of the Second Consultation Meeting to the same group that facilitated the First Consultation Meeting on Synodal Formation in Asia held last September in Pattaya, Thailand, to do the following: 2) reach out to the participants of the First Conference to see if they have succeeded in implementing their commitments on Synodal Formation and also to get their feedback on the holding of the Second Consultation Meeting; 3) prepare a survey about synodal processes and projects in Asian countries, have the survey approved by the FABC Central Leadership with the intention to release the survey responses before the holding of the Second Consultation Meeting on Synodal Formation so as to influence its content and process ; 4) consult the FABC leadership on its ideas and directions regarding Asian synodal renewal during their Annual meeting in March 2025. After these steps, details of the Second Consultation Meeting on Synodal Formation will be decided on by the organizing group and hopefully the Second Consultation Meeting will be in May 2025.