



WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION
ASIA-PACIFIC REGION · JAKARTA



Delegates of the Youth Peace Summit and 25th Regional Committee Meeting, Hsinchu, Taiwan, September 2025

MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

Seeds of Transformation

Greetings from the Asia-Pacific Region · January to July 2026

OPENING WORD

From the Regional Executive

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from WSCF Asia-Pacific.

The months behind us have been a season of transition and rebuilding for our small team in Jakarta, and we are glad to be writing to you again.

These pages carry the story of that season. You will find glimpses of 2025: the Youth Peace Summit in Taiwan, where the 25th Regional Committee Meeting elected new leadership for the region, and the work we carried together with partners, from climate justice in Papua to a witness in Rome. You will also find the life of this year so far, from the Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly to the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum, a renewed rhythm of accompaniment with our movements, and the return of the School for Ecumenical Leadership Formation this October in Chiang Mai.



Yowanda Yonggara, Regional Executive for Asia-Pacific

Jesus likened the Kingdom to a mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, which grows until the birds of the air shelter in its branches (Mark 4:30-32). Our office is small, and our budget is smaller still. The strength of this Federation has never lived there. It is in the students and Senior Friends who keep showing up for one another, in your context and in ours.

Thank you for walking with us. I hope these pages bring you close to the region again.

In solidarity,

Yowanda Yonggara

Regional Executive, Asia Pacific · World Student Christian Federation

2025 in Glimpses

Before we share the news of this year, we owe you the story of the last one. 2025 was a full and demanding year for the Asia-Pacific region.

SEPTEMBER 2025

HSINCHU, TAIWAN

Youth Peace Summit and the 25th RCM

The heart of our year was in Taiwan. From 6 to 14 September, twenty-seven participants from ten countries across South Asia, Southeast Asia, North East Asia, and the Pacific gathered at the Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu for the Youth Peace Summit, fifteen of them women. Taiwan SCM and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan hosted the gathering and carried every local arrangement, while the United Church of Canada walked with the delegates on their journeys, covering airfares and visas for young leaders from across the region.

The Summit put participants inside Taiwan's search for peace. Ms Chiu Yu-Ting's keynote walked them through cross-strait tensions and the military pressure that the People's Republic of China brings to bear on Taiwan's

democracy. Rev. Lian Chen-Hsiang led a reflection on the Good Samaritan, and the small groups sat with an uncomfortable question: who is left wounded on the road in our region today? In a role-play on rebuilding after conflict, participants negotiated as governments, community groups, and media, practising the listening that reconciliation requires. For many, it was the first time they heard Taiwanese Christians speak firsthand about their fears and their hopes.

Participants left with more than analysis. They took home methods their movements can use for holding dialogue across difference on campuses marked by polarisation, and a solidarity with Taiwan that is now personal rather than abstract.



Participants in workshop at the Youth Peace Summit, Hsinchu, Taiwan, September 2025

11 TO 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

PRESBYTERIAN BIBLE COLLEGE, HSINCHU

The 25th Regional Committee Meeting

Within the Summit, the 25th Regional Committee Meeting, the highest policy-making body of our region, met from 11 to 13 September. Movements from ten countries reported on their life: growth and resilience in some places, hardship in others, and everywhere the question of how students keep faith and courage in shrinking civic space. Delegates reviewed the work of the Regional Office, received greetings from WSCF General Secretary Marcelo Leites, elected the new leadership who will carry the region into the coming term, and set the program direction for 2026 to 2028:

01

youth peace and security

02

human rights

03

climate and economic
justice

04

gender justice

05

the questions young people face in a digital age



The 25th Regional Committee Meeting in session, Presbyterian Bible College, Hsinchu, September 2025

WITH GRATITUDE

We hold our partners in deep gratitude. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan opened its Bible College, its congregations, and its own account of what it means to be a church seeking peace under pressure. Taiwan SCM carried worship, translation, and a thousand practical kindnesses. And the United Church of Canada accompanied the delegates all the way to Hsinchu, bringing young leaders from across the region face to face. This is what partnership in the Gospel looks like, and we give thanks for it.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP 2025 TO 2027

Meet the New Committees

We give thanks for Ms Monika Biswas and the outgoing Standing Committee, who carried the region through a season of rebuilding, and we welcome those now called to serve:

STANDING COMMITTEE

Robert John Tulip Australia · Chairperson	Jessica Esther Warouw Indonesia · Vice Chairperson	Tsao Tsai-Hsun (Jacquelyn) Taiwan · Ex-CO Female
Thimothy Pathum Kumarathunga Sri Lanka · Ex-CO Male	Robinson D India · Member at Large	Naw Wine Mayble Myanmar · Member at Large

REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Lucy Katherine Jarasius Australia	Renny Rosa Rahabav Indonesia	Manjulie Vaiphei India
Tsao Tsai-Hsun (Jacquelyn) Taiwan · from the Standing Committee	Naw Wine Mayble Myanmar · from the Standing Committee	

HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMITTEE

Saw Moe Eh Doh Htoo Myanmar	Bima Satya Prawiranegara Indonesia	Daisy Roy Bangladesh
Larihun Lyngdoh India		



Delegates gathered in Hsinchu, September 2025

WALKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

Beyond the Summit, the year's work was carried together with partners, in programs and gatherings across the region.

4 TO 6 MARCH 2025

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Christian Youth as Human Rights Defenders

From 4 to 6 March, young people from across the region gathered in Taipei for Christian Youth as Human Rights Defenders, a training seminar held jointly by WSCF Asia-Pacific and the North East Asia Ecumenical Forum and hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. They met in a region where martial-law memories are near and authoritarian habits are returning. Participants studied the principles of human rights, shared the realities of their own countries, and sat in dialogue with the Taiwan

Association for Human Rights. At the Jing-Mei White Terror Memorial Park, former political prisoner Fred Chin Him-San recounted his imprisonment and torture under Taiwan's authoritarian past.

The gathering also marked the launch of the Asia Ecumenical Human Rights Network, a new platform connecting Christian youth who defend human rights across the region.



Participants create a tableau on the work of human rights defenders, and meet former political prisoner Fred Chin Him-San at the Jing-Mei White Terror Memorial Park, Taipei, March 2025



MARCH 2025

JAYAPURA, PAPUA

Climate Justice Connect

In the last week of March, around thirty young people gathered in Jayapura, Papua, for Climate Justice Connect, a collaboration with the United Evangelical Mission. Between input sessions and theological reflection, participants spent time with local communities already living with the damage. What they named together was plain: the climate crisis is not an accident of nature but the

fruit of an economic order that treats God's creation as a commodity, and its heaviest burdens fall on the communities who did least to cause it.

The learning did not stay in the meeting room. On Papua's coast, participants joined a coral transplantation project, setting new coral into damaged reefs. The gathering also left something behind on land: the Youth Asia Network, a new space connecting young climate advocates across the region.



Coral transplantation and community encounter, Climate Justice Connect, Papua, March 2025



MAY 2025

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

With the United Church of Canada in Manila

In May, our Regional Executive joined fellow Asia partners of the United Church of Canada for a two-day consultation in Manila on decolonisation and mutual radical accompaniment in partnership. Partners from across Asia and Canada asked hard questions of our shared history: how colonial patterns still live on in the way mission and partnership are practised, and what it would take to walk together differently. The consultation closed with the adoption of the Manila Declaration, a common pledge among the partners to a more equal, transparent, and accountable way of doing mission together. The Declaration is honest about the world we live in: colonisation, it says, is not just a past legacy but a present reality, continuing through trade agreements, cultural conquest, and institutional arrangements. The United Church of Canada has walked with our region for many years, and we are glad to be walking this road with them.



Asia partners of the United Church of Canada in consultation, Manila, May 2025

JUNE 2025

ROME, ITALY

An Ecumenical Witness in Rome

In June, our Regional Executive, Yowanda Yonggara, was invited to speak at the Pagtatanim Conference in Rome, convened by the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines. She attended in her role as WSCF Global Program Director for Democracy, Human Rights, and Fundamentalism, and spoke on an ecumenical perspective on solidarity, presenting the Federation's advocacy for human rights in the Philippines and its commitment to stand with the Filipino people and the churches who walk with them.



Pagtatanim Conference, Rome, June 2025

In the Wider Ecumenical Family

OCTOBER 2025

WCRC 27TH GENERAL COUNCIL, CHIANG MAI

As the year drew on, the Federation kept its seat in the wider ecumenical family. In October, WSCF AP was present at the WCRC 27th General Council in Chiang Mai, where the world communion gathered under the theme “Persevere in Your Witness.” Our Regional Executive attended alongside Jacquelyn (Tsao Tsai-Hsun) of our Executive Committee, and stood with the delegation of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum.

Around the Council, our Regional Executive spoke at “Standing in Solidarity: WSCF's Witness for Taiwan's Self-Determination,” carrying in public what this Federation has long held: that the future of Taiwan belongs to its people, not to the powers that claim them.



At the 27th WCRC Taiwan Ecumenical Workshop, supporting the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum, Chiang Mai, October 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

ASIAN ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, CHIANG MAI

In November we returned to Chiang Mai for the Asian Ecumenical Women's Conference, where more than eighty delegates from the member churches of the Christian Conference of Asia gathered at Payap University under the theme “Towards Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Women in Asia.” The conference named the wounds plainly: gender-based violence, the feminisation of precarious labour, militarisation that normalises sexual violence, and digital violence that extends patriarchal control into online spaces. And it named the systems behind them as contrary to the will of God. Its communique ends where our own work begins: “faith without action is dead.”



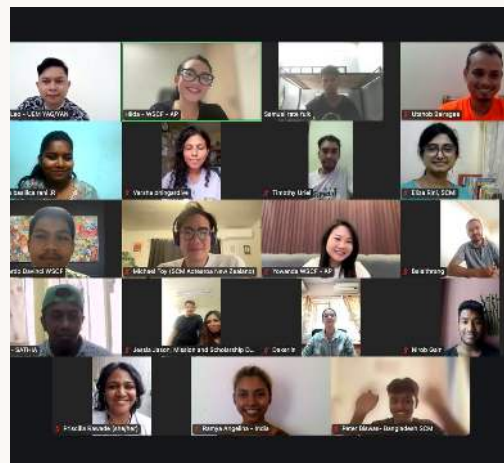
With then CCA General Secretary Dr. Mathew at the Asian Ecumenical Women's Conference, Payap University, November 2025

We keep showing up in these rooms for one reason. When the churches of Asia and the world gather, someone must carry the voice of students, and insist that young people are not guests of the ecumenical movement but members of the household.

A Region That Kept Meeting

Through the year, the Regional Office hosted a monthly online webinar and Bible study series, each edition co-hosted with a different movement: Taiwan SCM on peace and the future its people long for, GMKI (Gerakan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia) on the politics of Jesus and the calling of Christian students in democracy, Sri Lanka SCM on renewable energy, and year-end Bible studies with our Chairperson for the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence and for a Christmas of solidarity with the displaced.

In October, WSCF AP co-hosted Youth Climate Action Day 2025 under the theme “Hope and Resilience,” with a video competition and an online gathering held alongside the UN Climate Change Conference, in partnership with Bread for the World, PGI, and UEM.



Movements meeting online across the region

Walking with Myanmar SCM

In October, we sat down in Chiang Mai with members of Myanmar SCM now living there, young people who had to leave home after the military junta seized power in the 2021 coup, and more recently because of the junta's enforcement of the military conscription law, which has driven thousands of young people across the border rather than be forced to fight for the regime that upended their lives. We listened to their realities, prayed together, and began exploring how the Federation can continue to walk with them. We continue to keep Myanmar SCM in our prayers and solidarity.



Meeting with members of Myanmar SCM, Chiang Mai, October 2025

Regional Life

17 TO 21 APRIL 2026

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly

From 17 to 21 April, around one hundred and fifty young people from churches across Asia gathered in Chiang Mai for the Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly 2026, convened by the Christian Conference of Asia under the theme “Break Every Yoke” (Isaiah 58:6).

WSCF Asia-Pacific supported the participation of SCM representatives from across the region: Tondi Damanik (GMKI Indonesia), Iswarya Rajinikanth and Vinolina Anbu (SCM India), and Joseph Rizal Mariano (SCM Philippines). Our Regional Executive facilitated the assembly's sessions on human rights, where young

people worked through dignity, freedom, meaningful participation, and justice as foundations for peaceful and inclusive societies. The conversations reached the region's hardest questions: authoritarianism, corruption, economic inequality, migration, gender injustice, and the harm unethical digital development and artificial intelligence bring to vulnerable communities.

Participants went home carrying a conviction the assembly kept returning to: young people are not waiting to become the future of the Church. They are already leading it.



16 TO 18 APRIL 2026

CHANGHUA, TAIWAN

Taiwan Ecumenical Forum International Conference

From 16 to 18 April, the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum 2026 gathered church leaders, theologians, students, and grassroots communities in Changhua, Taiwan, under the theme “The Right to Self-Determination and the Missionary Role of the Church in the Geopolitical Context of Taiwan,” convened by the Council for World Mission, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, and the TEF Steering Group.

WSCF AP serves on the TEF Steering Group, and our Regional Executive facilitated the Forum's opening day. Testimonies from Dalit communities, West Papua, Latin America, and the Philippines made one thing plain: these struggles for justice and self-determination are bound to one another. In the words of the Forum's communique:

“Our common identity is not defined by nationalism, but shaped by love in our identification with the suffering, oppressed, and crucified peoples.”

We continue to stand with the people of Taiwan, and with all communities striving for justice, peace, and self-determination.



Participants of the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum 2026, Changhua



WSCF GLOBAL PEACE CAMPAIGN

Reclaiming Otherness

Across 2026 the Federation is carrying a global peace campaign, “Reclaiming Otherness: Youth Building Peace with Justice,” led by the Inter-Regional Office with regional teams across the six regions. Asia-Pacific's contribution is a trilogy of reflections asking one question of our region:

Colonialism changed its clothes, can you still see it?

Empire no longer arrives in gunboats and governors; it speaks the language of development, security, and growth.



ONE • LAND

Reclaiming the Land looks to Merauke, where ancestral forests are cleared for the Indonesian state's national strategic projects in the name of “development,” and the Malind people answered with the Salib Merah, a red cross planted in their own soil.



TWO • PEACE

Reclaiming Peace asks why a region promised “security” keeps filling with weapons, as the United States and China circle each other from Luzon to the Taiwan Strait to a divided Korea.



THREE • BELONGING

And **Reclaiming Belonging** refuses the labels that make people strangers on their own land, holding fast to the truth that the displaced and the stateless still bear the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

Watch our channels for the series.

wscf-ap.org • Facebook WSCFAP • Instagram @wscfasiapacific

MOVEMENT BUILDING

WSCF AP Grant 2026

Through the generosity of the Australian Student Christian Movement, the WSCF AP Grant 2026 is accompanying Bangladesh SCM, the Student Christian Movement of India, GMKI Indonesia, the Student Christian Movement of the Philippines, and Taiwan SCM as they pursue leadership formation and local witness in their own contexts. We thank ASCM for a partnership that reaches students far beyond what any single movement could do alone.

Bangladesh SCM

Student Christian Movement of India

GMKI Indonesia

Student Christian Movement of the Philippines

Taiwan SCM



Movements together at the Consultation and Capacity Building on Human Rights Issues in the Asia-Pacific, Philippines

MOVEMENT BUILDING

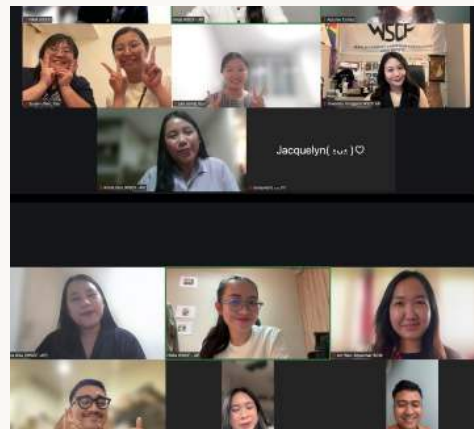
Accompanying the Movements

A Rhythm of Listening

Since June, the Regional Office has kept a monthly rhythm of Movement Building meetings with Student Christian Movements across Asia-Pacific, led by our Program Secretary and Movement Building Coordinator. Each conversation is simple: how is the movement, what are students facing, and how can the Federation walk alongside.

We hold the picture honestly. Twenty-one movements stand in the WSCF database for our region, fourteen of them affiliated and active today. The others are not forgotten; they are the reason for the quiet conversations you will read about below.

Some threads keep returning: movements searching for their next generation of leaders, students asking for formation and ecumenical grounding, and a longing to be better connected across the region. What we hear in these calls is shaping how the Regional Office walks with each movement.



Monthly Movement Building meetings online

14 APRIL 2026

TAINAN, TAIWAN

A Visit to SCM Tainan

On 14 April, in the week of the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum, our Regional Executive visited the SCM Tainan Student Centre together with Jacquelyn (Tsao Tsai-Hsun). They heard the centre's long history of nurturing faith, leadership, and social engagement among students, and joined a fellowship gathering with

students of Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology and Tainan University of Technology. Students spoke openly about the pressures they carry today, and the visit closed with a renewed commitment to accompany and strengthen the student Christian movement in Taiwan.

DOORS OPENING

We are also in quiet, hopeful conversations about renewed student Christian witness in places where movements have gone dormant: with church partners in Thailand, with the Pacific Conference of Churches in Fiji, and with friends exploring reconnection in Singapore, Nepal, and Pakistan. We come to each of these conversations with longing rather than a plan, trusting that God is already at work among students there.



Fellowship at the SCM Tainan Student Centre, 14 April 2026

Life of the Regional Office

Our Team, Renewed

This year brought new shape to the Jakarta office. Anastasia Hilda Mayora stepped into the role of Program Secretary and Movement Building Coordinator, deepening our accompaniment of the movements. We welcomed Arinta Gita Maharani Batara as Finance and Administration Officer, who also carries our communications and publications. And we said thank you and farewell to Leonardo Davinci, who served our finances faithfully and concluded his service in May. We are grateful for each of them.

Yowanda Yonggara

Regional Executive

Anastasia Hilda Mayora

Program Secretary and Movement
Building Coordinator

Arinta Gita Maharani Batara

Finance and Administration Officer

BACK ON YOUR SCREENS

Our website and social media are active again with regular updates from the region. Kindly follow us at www.wscf-ap.org, on Facebook at WSCFAP, and on Instagram at @wscfasiapacific, and share our posts with your communities.

www.wscf-ap.org

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AN HONEST WORD ON OUR MEANS

Earlier generations of this Federation wrote openly to their friends about how the house stood, and we want to keep that practice. The Regional Office runs on a small team and a modest budget, and the funding base that once carried this region is still being rebuilt after years of transition. The programs in these pages are carried by the partnership of churches and movements, by Senior Friends, and by the Asia-Pacific Trust Fund we are beginning to cultivate together. We name this in trust rather than complaint: you have a right to know how things stand, and we would rather build the next season with you than apart from you.

The Return of SELF

Signs of the Times, Seeds of Transformation: Reclaiming the Ecumenical Vision

DATES

26 October to 1 November
2026

PLACE

Chiang Mai, Thailand

EXPOSURE VISIT

Mae Sot, Thailand and Myanmar
border

For generations of WSCF Asia-Pacific, the School for Ecumenical Leadership Formation was a landmark of regional life. Many of the region's Senior Friends were themselves formed in SELF, and many have asked over the years when it would gather again. This year, after a long hiatus, we are bringing SELF back!

From 26 October to 1 November 2026, students and young leaders from across the region will gather in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The theme speaks to this moment. In a region marked by conflict, displacement, militarised borders, and shrinking democratic space, SELF 2026 asks a new generation to read the signs of the times together, and to discover what the ecumenical vision, which has carried this Federation for one hundred and thirty years, asks of them in their own contexts.



At the heart of the week is an exposure visit to Mae Sot, on the Thailand-Myanmar border, where participants will encounter the realities of statelessness, forced migration, and refugee life. The border also carries one of our region's newest wounds: young people lured from across Asia by false job offers, then trapped by criminal syndicates in scam compounds that operate along the border under the protection of armed groups, and forced to work as online scammers and gambling operators, unable to go home. It is the old sin of Empire in new clothes: human beings treated as commodities. Forced criminality is becoming one of the defining injustices of our time, and at Mae Sot our participants will meet it face to face, and ask what the Gospel requires of us in response.

We prepare this school together with partners we hold in gratitude, among them the Korea-Mae Sot Cooperation Center, the Korea Student Christian Federation, and the United Church of Canada. Movements across the region have nominated their delegates, and a limited number of places remain open for self-funded participants from the wider ecumenical family; those interested may write to office@wscfasiapacific.org.

Korea-Mae Sot Cooperation Center

Korea Student Christian Federation

United Church of Canada

WALK WITH US

Carried by Many Hands

The life described in these pages is carried by many hands. We thank the United Church of Canada, the Australian Student Christian Movement, the Christian Conference of Asia, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, the United Evangelical Mission, the Korea Student Christian Federation and its Senior Friends, and the Senior Friends across our region whose prayers, counsel, and gifts sustain this Federation.

Walk with us

As we prepare the return of SELF, we warmly invite you to walk with us. Partnership takes many forms: praying for the school and its participants, sending a young person, sharing wisdom from your own journey, or contributing resources toward the formation of this generation of ecumenical leaders.

GIFTS MAY BE SENT DIRECTLY TO OUR REGIONAL ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME

Yayasan WSCF

ACCOUNT NUMBER

111800015088

BANK

Bank OCBC (PT Bank OCBC NISP Tbk)

SWIFT CODE

NISPIDJA

BANK ADDRESS

Dipo Tower, Jl. Gatot Subroto Kav 50-52, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia 10260

Kindly include “SELF 2026” and your name in the transfer reference, and send us a short note at office@wscfasiapacific.org so we can receive your gift with proper thanks.

May the God of hope keep our movements, our partners, and our region in peace, and may the seeds sown in these months bear fruit in the lives of students across Asia-Pacific. Shalom!

In solidarity,

WSCF Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Jakarta

