



Dear Bishops, Fathers, Sisters, Friends, Alumni and Partners

The Newness at IFFAsia

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever” (Psalm 136).

It is with great joy and thanksgiving in our hearts that we celebrate these days the **10th Anniversary of IFFAsia**. From a little seed, it has sprouted to reach many countries in our continent – and the fruits are visible in the lives of the alumni and in your own projects and communities.

In spite of whatever shortcomings, lacks, difficulties, you may have experienced at IFFAsia, goodness and graces have also abounded. The seed did not remain a seed, but has died to give life! Indeed, let us give thanks together, *“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.”*

Life is a constant moving forward. As Pope Francis recently pointed out, the action of God in our lives and organisations does not grow through an organisation chart, but through a deep docility to the promptings of the Holy Spirit (cf. Homily, 26 Oct). In his encyclical, *Evangelii Gaudium*, he highlights the need for greater lay formation, space for them to act, and most of all the need to increase efforts for “a greater penetration of Christian values in the social, political and economic sectors” (EG, 102).

As we listen in docility to this call of the Church, to the changing realities, and our partners’ needs, we are convinced of the need to reach out to ever wider groups of young adults and professionals, especially those on the peripheries of our societies.

A new chapter unfolds for IFFAsia. We are revising our program response. The new School Year at IFFAsia will begin in July 2017, to adapt to the changes in the Philippines academic system. We will have two semesters, with option to do both or only one. The first semester will be common to all (July to October 2017) followed by two tracks of specialization, either in Pastoral Leadership or Development Leadership (November 2017 to February 2018). Both tracks will include internships with partners like you in the region, who have specialised in certain areas.

Through these tracks we wish to better respond to the needs of our times:

- **Pastoral Leadership** offers further choices in Youth Ministry (in link with Family Life) OR Joy of the Gospel (Evangelisation, Community Animation and Pastoral ministries).
- **Development Leadership** will focus on Community Development (with Social Entrepreneurship) OR Migration (including Refugees & Human Trafficking).



The vision and platform for the newness was unanimously developed by staff and alumni. A 5-year plan and vision was articulated: *“IFFAsia as a hub and network of formation centers...working with the Youth Leadership and Development Centers (YLDC) on the ground.”*

The YLDC is a joint project of IFFAsia, alumni and partners / local Churches. It offers a 3-4 months basic formation in ‘Life Skills’ (English, Computer, Office Skills, Work Ethics, Social Awareness, etc.) to help young people of all backgrounds be gainfully employed and stand on their feet. This can be followed-up by a longer ‘Youth Leadership and Christian Discipleship’ program locally. It will also ensure better preparation of interested participants before they come to IFFAsia. They are encouraged to attend the YLDCs locally to improve their English, and familiarize with formation.

We also believe in the wisdom of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC) in recommending **stages of formation** beginning from one’s local context. IFFAsia has thus begun to devolve part of its formation to the YLDCs in Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam.

For this purpose, staff and interested alumni have undergone a series of Outcome Based Education (OBE) workshops with our partner Xavier University to develop the new curriculum as well as streamline the programs.

We hope all these efforts will deepen our mutual partnership and collaboration, as we strive together to build the capacity of the young and laity, to inspire in them the vision for a better Asia, and accompany them in their journey of faith and service.

With this letter, we wish to remember and thank all staff, friends, resource persons, alumni, sponsors, donors, partners, who have journeyed with us the past 10 years through your prayers, service and contributions. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.”

We remain, sincerely yours,

Alice Tan
Director

Bishop Joel Baylon
Chairman, Board

Charles Bertille
Regional Coordinator



Christians for the world

IFFAsia — RESOURCE PERSONS

Prof. Fr. James Kroeger, M.M.	Dr. Victoria Parco, Institute of Mother of Life
Fr. Hector Attard, MSSP	Fr Mark Demanuele, MSSP
Sr. Hazel Suarez, Cenacle Sisters	Br. Alex Zammit, MSSP
Dr. Stephen Selvarajoo, Malaysia	Fr. Niphot Thienviharn, Thailand
Mr. Charles Bertille, Malaysia	Ms. Wendy Louis, Singapore
Ms. Rebecca Garces Philippines	Ms. Rosabelle Ramirez Philippines
Ms. Maddy Edwards, UK	Ms. Gigi Tupas, Philippines
Fr. Jojo Fung, Sj	Mr. Manny and Betty San Luis Philippines
Mr. Butch Nayona Philippines	Ms. Leah Tolentino & Ginhawa Team
YOUCAT Team, Philippines	Mr. Earnest Tan Philippines
Sr. Nuala Gannon, Sisters of Loreto	Fr. Joel Jason Philippines
Dr. Terry David Philippines	Mr. Prachuab Trinikorn, Thailand
Dr. Ma Theresa Mendoza-Rivera Philippines	

IFF Asia – PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

PHILIPPINES : Assumption Language School; Searsolin/Xavier University; Gawad Kalinga; Institute of Mother of Life; MSSP; Ginhawa; Radio Veritas Asia; Bukal Ng Tipan; YOUCAT Team, ICPE, Episcopal Youth Commission ; Diocese of Legazpi

MYANMAR : National Catholic Youth Commission, Yangon Archdiocese and various other Dioceses

THAILAND : Research and Training Center for Religio-Cultural Community; National Catholic Youth Commission & various Dioceses

CAMBODIA : Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, Battambang Branch; Phnom Penh Diocese Youth Commission

MALAYSIA : Dioceses Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Sibul, Keningau, Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan

BRUNEI, MONGOLIA, LAOS : Youth Commission

VIETNAM : Saigon Pastoral Institute; Episcopal Commission on Pastoral Care for Migrants & Itinerants Jesuit; Social Apostolate; Eucharistic Youth Movement; Young Catholic Students Movement

REGIONAL : Member of the FABC-Youth Desk (COYA-Catholic Organisation for Youth in Asia), Inter-Institute Collaboration (EAPI, ICLA, IFRS, ALC, Fondacio, Cenacle), ALL Forum (Asian Lay Leaders).