

#SparkofChangeInTheWorld

May 10, 2018
Fondacio International
Forum Newsletter



I call you friends...
Meeting my International family!

The impossible is possible!

It seemed like an overly ambitious project for Fondacio Asia to embark on. "They did not know that it was impossible, so they did it!" said Francois Prouteau addressing the Asian team who coordinated the events.

We hosted a total of 216 participants from 26 countries, 4 continents. Additionally, we had 19 resource persons to accompany us over the 2 days; organized 8 workshops, and 3 panel discussions. We mobilized more than 30 Fondacio Asia youth to plan and support its implementation.

Fondacio International

Forum

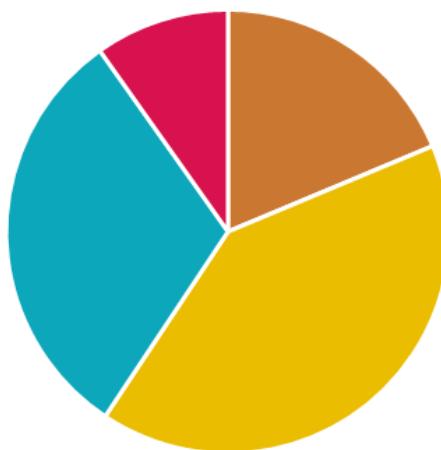
Participants:

87—ASIA

40—AFRICA

66—EUROPE

21—SOUTH AMERICA



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Exposure: Going to the Peripheries

A number of our delegates visited various countries in Southeast Asia for an exposure in Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Malaysia and the Philippines to offer the participants an opportunity to encounter and learn from Asia and its diverse realities. These experiences touched the participants and many could identify with the sufferings of Asia. The exposure experience also gave an opportunity for dialogue with the "other".

What is the Fondacio International Meeting?

It is a four-part event around the 5th Fondacio Congress, spearheaded by Fondacio Asia. It is the first time that the Congress is held in Asia. This includes Exposure, Forum, Congress and Post-Congress Leadership meeting with the intention to better prepare the participants in making decisions for Fondacio's orientations for the next 5 years.

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Opening Ceremony and Dance Animated

The Forum began with the opening ceremony animated by the young people of Fondacio Asia. It celebrated the youthfulness of Asia, its diversity, and our spirituality of friendship with one another and the world to welcome the participants from the four continents. The theme, "spark of change in the world" was symbolised with the lighting of the Indian oil lamp and striking the gong three times to declare the launch of the Forum in an Asian way.

Charles Bertille, Fondacio Asia Coordinator, emboldened each one present, "to live with fire in the heart, word on the lips and a prophetic look in the eye."



Our Common Home

Cardinal Tagle provided a framework for our forum by mapping out the landscape of Asia. He highlighted the problems of massive displacement of people, unequal distribution of wealth, digital revolution, and clash between urban cultures versus traditional cultures. But added that we can respond to these crises through new movements, new philosophical intervention and new values.

Re-enchantment with the Mystical

Fr. Niphon, Director of Research and Training Center for Religio-Cultural Community of the Diocese of Chiang Mai, spoke of "Re-enchantment"... to re-create a link between the sacred, the humanity and the world! In addition, Sr. Cyrilla Chakalakal, Superior General of FSMA emphasised, "be the change you want to see."



Professor Nada, Chair Professor of Xavier Center for Humanity and Compassion Studies in India, highlighted unchecked capitalist system demands growth that forces the planet and people to go beyond its limits. The problem is structural and requires extensive intervention – by deconstructing modernity and rediscovering the sacred!

Venerable Tola, Director, International Relations and Cooperation, Preah Sineak Raja Buddhist University shared, "People do not need mission, life is mission. The path of holiness is now, start the present moment now, you will sustain yourself."

Forum Workshops

Activating Young Talents through Entrepreneurial Education and Leadership Development

Adele Galey, Founder, Ticket for Change

Global and local challenges of Migration

Ignacio Rosselot, EVP, Cristo Vive Foundation and Gustavo Adolfo Lopez, Project Lead, OASIS Project

A Radiant Africa: Moving beyond Dependency on Aid

Amah and Antoine D., Fondacio Africa

For you too: The universal call to holiness through mission

Fr. James Kroeger, Professor of Systematic Theology and Mission Studies

A Common spirituality for a sustainable world

*Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop of Yangon (video) and Venerable Tola, Director, Preah Sineak Raja Buddhist University
Professor Nadarajah, Xavier Center for Humanity and Compassion Studies*

Going to the Peripheries: Empowering the Youth in Asia

Fondacio Asia

Co-elective Couples and Formation of Conscience

Sylvie Barth, Fondacio France and Jerome Toze, Fondacio Benin

Ministry Challenges: Youth and Digital Age

Bishop Joel Baylon, former CBCP Episcopal Commission on Youth

The workshop experiences were important as it contributed to the building of solidarity with our friends from Europe, Africa and South America.

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Sharing on the Pre-Synod



In March 2018, three Fondacio youth attended the Pre-synod on Youth in Rome. During the forum, Rosa (an alumni of IFFAsia) shared her significant moment with Pope Francis. The Holy Father held her hand and told her "The mission in China is difficult but it is necessary"; he also said he is ready to go to China which touched her deeply. This deepened her love for the Church and those who are persecuted for their faith.

"Dag Dag" Process

At the close of the Forum, the 'dagdag' process (to add on) drew out many enriching and deeply affirming feedback from the participants.

"Young people go ahead; the elders trust us now, they have opened up space for us."

"I am here as a foreigner, I was welcomed, I see you in Asia truly as living witnesses of the gospel."

"I am inspired by Asia".



"In communion with those who suffer, a prayer with Rice Merit Network"

Notes of an Observer

Prof. Nada, a sociologist, emphasized the importance of learning to be human. Fr. James Kroeger, renowned theologian and missiologist, shared his observation of the overall forum. He articulated his encounter of the 2-day International Forum by summing them up in 5 Ss.

1st S—Solidarity; we see solidarity being lived here among the different cultures, faith and traditions in Asia.

2nd S—Service; we experienced the young people in action here, with deep sense of generosity and maturity, and always serving with a sincere smile.

SOLIDARITY

SPARK

SPIRITUALITY

SERVICE

SENSITIVITY

3rd S—Spark; the theme of the Forum "Spark of Change" is a very creative way of saying we need to be in mission. One spark with many sparks can become an entire fire that reaches the world extensively.

4th S—Sensitivity to culture, faith and tradition was very apparent with all the participants.

5th S—Spirituality is based on the encounter with Christ and learning to be joyful evangelizers.

All in all, we have been blessed with many insights and realizations through these two days.

Launching "Stories of Hope"

In the opening mass of the Fondacio Congress, which concluded the Forum, the book 'Stories of Hope' produced by Fondacio Asia, was launched by Francois Prouteau, Fondacio President and Antoine Dzamah, Vice President. This book contains stories of disciples called by Fondacio to mission all over the world and the people they serve.

Celebrating our Diversity

The night was a heady mix of tribal rhythms, and enchanting gracefulness from the African, Asian, European and South American continents. It was a delightful evening of celebration and friendship. A Filipino indigenous traditional dance was performed as a prayer to close the evening.

